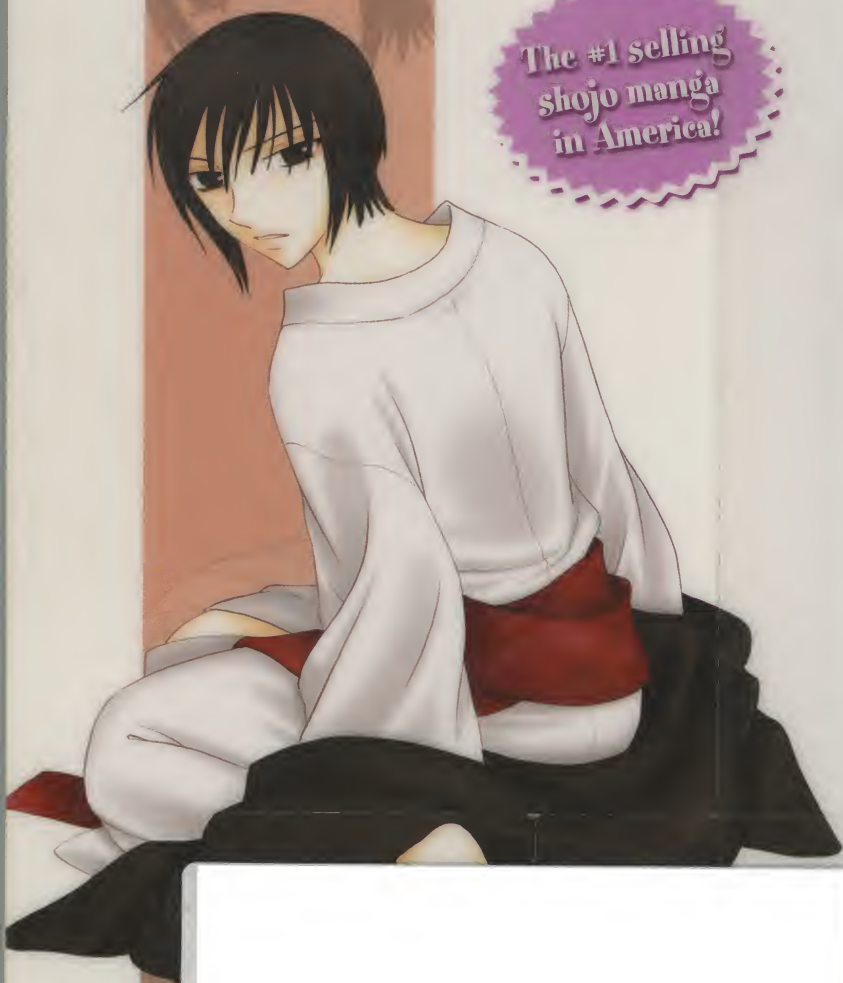


# Fruits Basket

TM

The #1 selling  
shojo manga  
in America!

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15

Natsuki Takaya

# Fruits Basket™

Volume 15



Natsuki Takaya

# Fruits Basket™

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# STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!





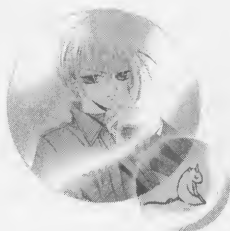


## Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

## Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school he's called "Prince Yuki."



## Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

## Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Yuki, even if it kills him.



# Fruits Basket Characters

## Mabudachi Trio



### Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.

### Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.



### Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.

### Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

### Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.



Tohru's Best Friends



## Hiro Sohma, the Ram (or sheep)

This caustic tyke is skilled at throwing verbal barbs, but he has a soft spot for Kisa.

## Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks. His mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse. His little sister, Momo, has been kept from him most of her life.



## Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out. He was once in a relationship with Rin.



## Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.



# Fruits Basket Characters

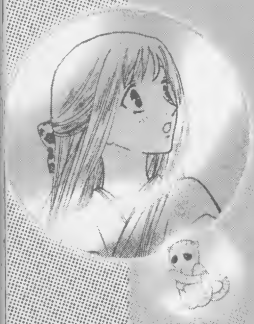
## Isuzu "Rin" Sohma, the Horse

She was once in a relationship with Hatsuharu (Haru)...and Tohru leaves her rather cold. Rin is full of pride, and she can't stand the amount of deference the other Sohma family members give Akito.



## Ritsu Sohma, the Monkey

This shy kimono-wearing member of the Sohma family is gorgeous. But this "she" is really a he!! Crossdressing calms his nerves.



## Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence.



Filler  
Sketch

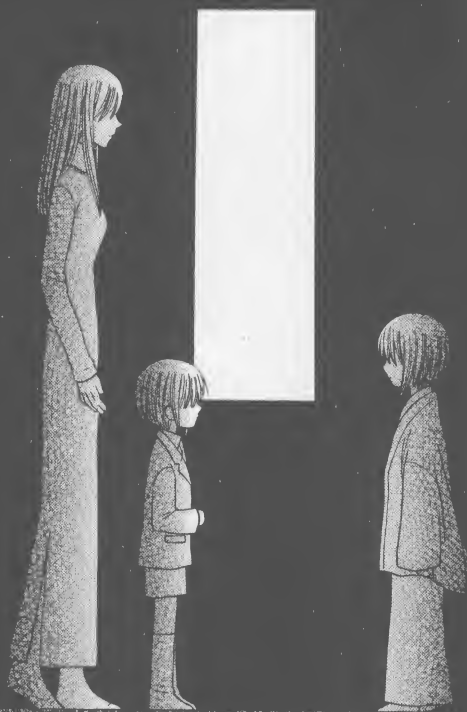



Sorry for the delay.

*THOSE  
THINGS...  
AND  
NOTHING  
ELSE.*

*...MY WORLD  
CONSISTED OF  
AKITO, MY MOTHER,  
AND WHATEVER  
SCENERY I COULD  
SEE BEYOND THE  
SLIDING DOOR.*

*WHEN I WAS  
VERY, VERY  
SMALL...*





AKITO-SAN GOES  
WITHOUT SAYING,  
BUT I'M CERTAIN THE  
DECEASED FORMER  
HEAD OF THE FAMILY  
IS ALSO PLEASED.

koff

THE BIRTH  
OF A CHILD  
POSSESSED BY  
THE RAT.

IT'S A CAUSE  
FOR GREAT  
CELEBRATION  
IN THE SOHMA  
FAMILY, YOU  
KNOW.

## Chapter 84

# Fruits Basket™





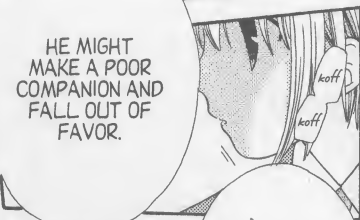
I'M TOLD  
THAT THERE'S  
A BOND BETWEEN  
"GOD" AND THE MEM-  
BERS OF THE  
ZODIAC THAT CAN'T  
BE EXPRESSED IN  
WORDS.

I'M SURE  
THEY'LL GET  
ALONG RIGHT  
AWAY.



I'M WORRIED  
THAT THE BOY  
IS TOO SICKLY  
AND WEAK.

HE MIGHT  
MAKE A POOR  
COMPANION AND  
FALL OUT OF  
FAVOR.



NOW, NOW.  
THERE'S NO  
NEED TO  
WORRY.



AKITO-SAN,  
I'VE BROUGHT  
HIM FOR YOU.



YUKI...

DON'T  
COUGH IN  
FRONT OF  
THE HEAD  
OF THE  
FAMILY.







IN THE  
UNKNOWN  
DEPTHS OF  
MY HEART,  
SOMETHING  
CRIED OUT.

...IT  
WASN'T  
UP TO  
ME.

BUT...

STOP  
THAT--  
IT'S  
RUDE!

WHAT

WH-WHY  
ARE YOU  
CRYING,  
YUKI?

LOVED...

...AND  
HATED.

THE  
OLDER ONES  
POSSESSED BY  
SPIRITS CRIED  
BEFORE HIM  
AS WELL.

I  
WANTED  
TO SEE  
HIM.

I DIDN'T  
WANT  
TO SEE  
HIM.

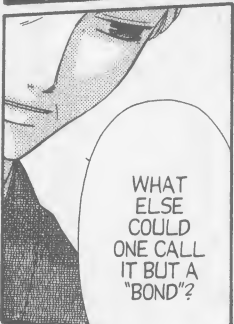
WHAT  
ELSE  
COULD  
ONE CALL  
IT BUT A  
"BOND"?

LIKE AN  
UNBREAKABLE  
KARMIC LINK.

I WANT  
TO HOLD  
HIM  
CLOSE...

...AND  
YET RUN  
AWAY.

IT'S ALL  
RIGHT.





YOU  
KNOW  
SOME-  
THING?

THE  
RAT IS THE  
GREATEST  
MEMBER OF  
THE ZODIAC.

IT'S  
THE ONE  
CLOSEST  
TO GOD.



THAT MEANS  
YOU'RE THE  
ONE CLOSEST  
TO ME...

...AND  
YOU'RE  
SPECIAL  
LIKE ME,  
TOO.



AS AKITO'S  
PLAYMATE,  
I SPENT ALL  
MY DAYS  
INDOORS.

MY  
EARLIEST  
MEMORIES  
ARE ALL  
WITH AKITO.



WE  
MEET AT  
LAST.

HELLO...

...MY  
VENGEFUL  
LITTLE  
YUKI.



WOULD  
YOU QUIT  
COUGHING?!  
IT'S GET-  
TING ON MY  
NERVES!

AGH,  
SHUT  
UP!

I WAS  
STILL  
VERY  
YOUNG.

I TENDED  
TO BELIEVE  
WHAT I WAS  
TOLD.

crash

COME  
TO THINK  
OF IT...

AKITO  
HAD A BAD  
TEMPER...

HE  
WOULD  
EVEN  
CRY.

IF I'M  
REMEMBER-  
ING RIGHT.

...BUT I  
THINK  
IT WAS  
DIFFERENT  
FROM HOW  
HE IS NOW.

clink

STILL...



ONE  
DAY...

AKITO  
LOST IT.

YOU SEE  
THIS?

MY  
WORLD IS  
A BLACK  
PLACE,  
YUKI.



I HAVE  
TO MAKE  
MY ROOM  
MATCH.

SOME-  
THING  
WAS  
SAD,  
MAYBE?  
OR  
FRIGHT-  
ENING?

IT  
HAD-  
PENED  
SO SUD-  
DENLY.

SHIGURE  
WAS  
ROCKING  
HIM TO  
SLEEP.

I SAW  
HIM, WITH  
SHIGURE A  
FEW TIMES.



AKITO...?

AND  
YOU,  
YUKI.

YOU'RE  
PITCH  
BLACK,  
TOO.

NO, WE  
CAN'T BE  
THE SAME.

THAT  
WOULD  
MAKE ME UN-  
NECESSARY.

AKITO--

BUT I'M  
CHOSEN. I'M  
NEEDED!

I'M HERE  
BECAUSE  
I HAVE  
TO BE!

I'M  
NOT THE  
SAME AS  
YOU!

WE'RE  
ALWAYS  
TOGETHER,  
SO YOU HAVE  
TO BE BLACK,  
TOO.

WE HAVE  
TO BE THE  
SAME TO  
BE FAIR,  
RIGHT?



THAT'S  
AS GOOD  
AS GETTING  
ABANDONED!

YOU'RE  
JUST MY  
TOY.

HA  
HA  
HA!

YOUR  
MOTHER  
GAVE YOU  
TO ME.



EVERYONE  
HATES  
THE RAT,  
STUPID!

NO-  
BODY  
CARES!

NOBODY  
CARES  
ABOUT  
YOU!

DON'T  
YOU GET  
IT?!

"SOON."

"L/M..."

...WHEN  
CAN I GO  
HOME?"

shove





HOW  
LONG  
WAS IT...

...THAT MY  
MOTHER  
DIDN'T  
COME?

"YOU'VE BEEN  
ABANDONED."

YOU  
NEED  
ME.

IF I  
DIDN'T  
CARE  
ABOUT  
YOU...

...THERE'D BE  
NO REASON  
FOR YOU TO  
BE ALIVE!



...I  
REALIZED  
SOME-  
THING.

AFTER  
THAT...





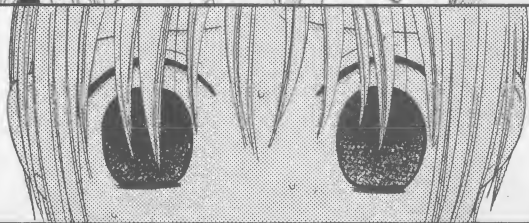
I WAS  
ALWAYS  
WITH  
AKITO.



I HADN'T EVEN  
SPOKEN TO THE  
BOY WHO WAS  
MY BROTHER.



I'D NEVER  
SHARED A  
WORD WITH  
THE OTHER  
MEMBERS OF  
THE ZODIAC.



"EVERYONE  
HATES THE RAT,  
STUPID!"

## Fruits Basket 15

Nice to meet you!  
I'm Takaya, and this  
is Volume 15.

...That's right,  
folks--we're all the  
way to Volume 15.

The cover is Akkii this  
time around. I think  
various aspects of  
Akkii's background--  
or true nature,  
maybe? circumstanc-  
es, perhaps?--have  
been revealed by now  
in *Hana to Yume*  
magazine. (Finally.)

For those of you who  
only read this series  
in book format, you  
still have a little while  
before you can read  
all that--but I won't  
give any spoilers in  
these columns, so  
not to worry. Having  
Akito on the cover of  
the book that talks  
about Yuki's past...  
it's another aftereffect  
of their unbreakable  
bond, I guess. Sorry,  
Yun-chan. I didn't do  
that on purpose.

Anyway, please enjoy  
Volume 15.





IT'S  
SO...

...PRETTY.




YOU'RE  
THE RAT,  
HUH?

YOU.

THAT  
PRETTY  
ORANGE.

UM...



SOME-  
ONE AS  
ROTTEN  
AS YOU...

IT'S ALL  
YOUR  
FAULT;  
RAT!

EVERY-  
THING'S  
YOUR  
FAULT!

...OUGHTA  
DO US ALL  
A FAVOR  
AND JUST  
DISAPPEAR!

IT'S ALL  
BECAUSE  
YOU  
EXIST!



OH.

UM,  
YES.



I'LL  
NEVER...

...FORGIVE  
YOU.



DO YOU  
HEAR  
ME?

I'LL  
NEVER  
FORGIVE  
YOU!



MOTHER...

MOTHER?

M-



.....!



"THE RAT."



DON'T  
MISUNDER-  
STAND.

WHERE ON  
EARTH HAVE  
YOU BEEN?!



HURRY  
UP AND GO  
BACK TO THE  
HEAD OF THE  
FAMILY!

I REFUSE TO  
BE HUMILI-  
ATED OVER  
SOMETHING  
SO INSIGNIFI-  
CANT!

NOBODY  
CARES  
ABOUT  
YOU!




"EVERYONE  
HATES THE  
RAT!"



JUST LIKE  
YOUR LIFE,  
YUKI.

THIS  
WORLD IS  
BLACK.



THERE  
ARE NO POS-  
SIBILITIES, NO  
HOPES....



YOU'LL  
LIVE ON A  
PITCH-BLACK  
PATH.





HE MADE  
ME LISTEN  
TO THOSE  
TERRIBLE  
WORDS  
EVERY DAY.



HIS  
PITCH-  
BLACK  
WORDS.


AKITO  
CARVED  
THEM  
INTO  
ME.



BEFORE I  
KNEW IT...



IT WAS  
EVERY  
DAY.



SO DON'T MISUNDER-  
STAND...

...AND THINK  
THAT ONE  
DAY YOU'LL  
BE SAVED.



WHY  
WOULDN'T  
THEY?

NO ONE  
CARES. NO  
ONE NEEDS  
YOU. YOU'RE  
A BORING  
HUMAN  
BEING.



OF  
COURSE.

...THEY  
STARTED  
TO SEEM  
LIKE THE  
TRUTH.




...EVEN IF I  
WANTED TO  
BE SAVED...

EVEN IF  
I REACHED  
OUT MY  
HAND...




I WAS  
AFRAID.



THEY'RE  
LIVING IT UP,  
APPARENTLY.

DID YOU  
HEAR ABOUT  
YUKI-SAN'S  
PARENTS?



IT'S  
THE SPECIAL  
STATUS OF THE  
RAT. THEY MAY  
BE PARENTS  
OF ZODIAC  
CHILDREN...

...BUT THEIR  
YOUNGEST SON'S  
POSSESSION IS  
WHAT'S LAND-  
ING THEM THEIR  
MONEY AND  
POSITIONS.



I DIDN'T  
WANT  
THEM TO  
LOOK AT  
ME...

...WITH  
EYES OF  
INDIFFER-  
ENCE.


OR  
EYES OF  
HATE.





ESPECIALLY  
MY PARENTS;  
THEY HAD NO  
DESIRE TO  
CHANGE  
THINGS.


I COULDN'T  
EXPECT  
ANYONE TO  
COME FOR  
ME.



THEY SOLD  
THEIR OWN  
CHILD TO THE  
HEAD OF THE  
FAMILY.

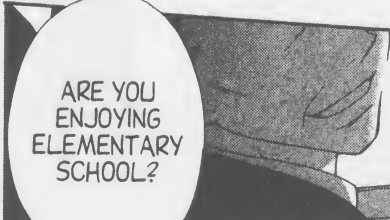
AS FLATTERY.  
THEY REALLY  
COVERED ALL  
THEIR BASES.

WELL, IT'S  
PRACTICALLY  
A HUMAN SAC-  
RIFICE--I SURE  
COULDN'T DO IT.



INSIDE THE  
SOHMA  
FAMILY...

...MY  
PARENTS  
WERE  
"WINNERS."



ARE YOU  
ENJOYING  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL?

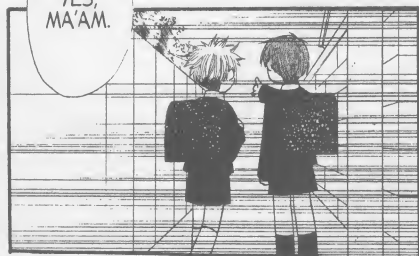
YUKI-  
SAN?



OH--AND  
PLEASE  
DROP ME OFF  
BEFORE YOU  
TAKE HIM TO  
SCHOOL.

I'LL BE  
COMING  
HOME  
LATE.

YES,  
MA'AM.



I WONDER. I'M  
AFRAID THIS  
BOY DOESN'T  
THINK FOR  
HIMSELF.

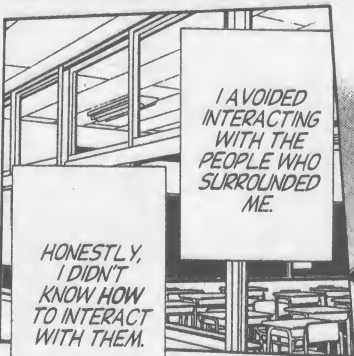
IT'S A SHAME,  
CONSIDERING I  
ENROLLED HIM IN  
A BETTER SCHOOL  
THAN THE OTHER  
ZODIAC CHILDREN.





ELE-  
MEN-  
TARY  
SCHOOL.

THAT  
WAS A  
PAINFUL  
PLACE  
FOR ME.



I AVOIDED  
INTERACTING  
WITH THE  
PEOPLE WHO  
SURROUNDED  
ME.

HONESTLY,  
I DIDN'T  
KNOW HOW  
TO INTERACT  
WITH THEM.

AND I  
DIDN'T WANT  
TO BE HATED  
ANYMORE.



LET'S GO  
PLAY!

AND  
YET...

...I STILL  
COULDN'T  
AVOID  
EVERY-  
THING.



...YUKI.

SIT  
DOWN.





IT WAS  
MY VERY  
FIRST  
TIME.



I WAS  
HAPPY.



I DIDN'T  
KNOW WHAT  
TO DO WITH  
MYSELF,  
I WAS SO  
HAPPY.



I GOT  
CARRIED  
AWAY.



I COM-  
PLETELY  
FORGOT...



I GOT  
CARRIED  
AWAY.



THERE  
WERE EVEN  
SOHMA  
CHILDREN  
AMONG  
MY NEW  
FRIENDS.



WE  
STARTED  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
EXPLORING  
THE "INSIDE"  
TOGETHER.



...TO BE  
CAREFUL  
WITH  
GIRLS.



EVERYONE  
CAME IN  
THROUGH  
THE SECRET  
ENTRANCE.



THE  
CONCEPT IS  
DISGUSTING  
TO NORMAL  
PEOPLE; IT'LL  
ONLY DRIVE  
THEM AWAY.

THEY'LL  
LEAVE  
YOU, YUKI.



...  
WELL  
?

DIDN'T  
I TELL  
YOU?



YOU'RE  
MISUNDER-  
STANDING  
AGAIN.

YOU'RE  
A BOY WHO  
TURNS INTO  
A RAT.

OF COURSE  
IT'S WEIRD.



THE  
INCIDENT  
WAS A  
SCANDAL.

IN THE  
END...

...THE  
MEMORIES  
OF MY FRIENDS  
WERE ALL  
SUPPRESSED.



PLEASE...

PLEASE!

D-DON'T  
ERASE  
THEM!



...FRIENDS...

...I EVER  
MADE.

THEY'RE  
THE  
FIRST...



THEY'RE  
MY  
FRIENDS!



I'M NOT  
KIDDING!

HERE--  
I'LL SHOW  
YOU ON  
THE WAY.

COOL!

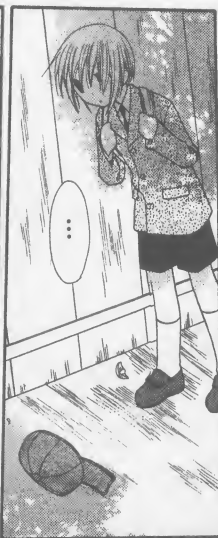
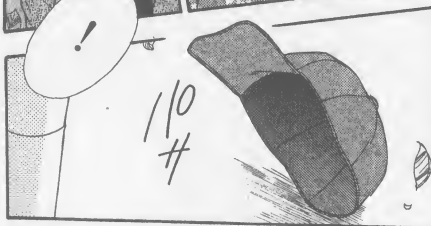
pass



Ha ha  
ha! No  
way!

*"THEY'LL  
LEAVE  
YOU!"*





"WE  
WANNA  
PLAY..."

...YUKI!"







11"  
stomp 7  
11"  
stomp 7  
11"  
stomp 7...



...OH.

UM,  
HERE.



LOVING  
PARENTS...



...A HOME THAT  
NO ONE WOULD  
EVER WANT TO  
LEAVE.



A WARM  
PLACE...



A HAPPY  
HOME.

...WITH  
EVERYONE  
SMILING  
AT ME.



THERE WAS  
SOMETHING I  
WANTED...




*THAT  
WAS ALL  
I WANTED.*

*THAT,  
AND  
NOTHING  
ELSE.*



# Chapter 85



IT SHOULD  
BE EASIER  
FOR HIM TO  
BREATHE THE  
WAY HE IS.

KOFF

WE  
REALLY  
CAN'T LET  
HIM LIE  
DOWN?

HIS  
COUGH'S  
GETTING  
WORSE.

KOFF



KOFF

KOFF

THAT'S  
VERY KIND  
OF YOU,  
AKITO-SAN.

I FEEL  
BAD FOR  
YUKI.

IS IT ALL  
RIGHT IF  
I GO TALK  
TO HIM?

INDEED.  
BUT TRY TO  
KEEP YOUR  
DISTANCE  
A BIT.



KOFF

WHY? IT'S  
NOT LIKE IT'S  
CONTAGIOUS.



KOFF

THE  
MEDICINE  
SHOULD  
TAKE EFFECT  
SOON.

ALL  
RIGHT.

I'LL LET  
YOU KNOW  
IF ANYTHING  
CHANGES.



ARE YOU  
GOING TO  
DIE...

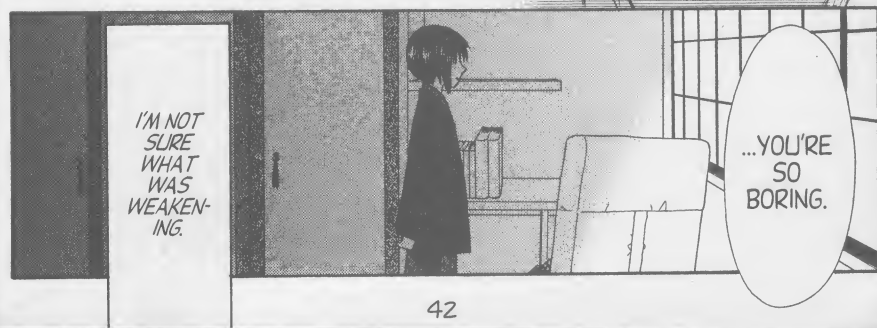
...YUKI?



ARE  
YOU?

WELL?

koff



I'M NOT  
SURE  
WHAT  
WAS  
WEAKEN-  
ING.

...YOU'RE  
SO  
BORING.



IT WAS  
EITHER  
MY BODY...

...OR MY  
HEART.



I  
THOUGHT  
THEY  
MIGHT  
COME TO  
SEE HIM.

I  
HAVEN'T  
SEEN  
THEM.

ARE HIS  
PARENTS  
HERE?



IT WAS  
A FEW  
YEARS  
AGO.

DID YOU  
HEAR?

THE  
MOTHER  
OF KYO,  
THE CAT.

SHE  
KILLED  
HERSELF.



OF COURSE  
THEY WON'T--  
THE TWO OF  
THEM ARE ON  
A TRIP.

ARE  
THEY?

THEN  
WHAT  
ABOUT  
AYAME-  
SAN?



HE JUST  
BRUSHED  
ME OFF.

BUT...  
THAT'S  
HIS BABY  
BROTHER!





...THINGS  
WOULD'VE  
BEEN A LITTLE  
HAPPIER."  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT.

"MAYBE IF  
HE'D BEEN  
BORN AS  
THE RAT...

SOMETHING  
LIKE, "BEING  
WITH HIM  
BECAME TOO  
PAINFUL."



ALL THE  
TALK IS  
THAT SHE  
DIED IN AN  
ACCIDENT...

...BUT  
IT WAS  
SUICIDE,  
TRUST  
ME.

APPARENTLY  
SHE LEFT A  
WILL--IF YOU  
CAN CALL IT  
THAT.



HE HAS A  
GRUDGE  
AGAINST  
YOU, YUKI.

YOU KNOW  
WHAT HE  
SAID AT THE  
FUNERAL?

"I'LL KILL  
YUKI AND THEN  
DIE MYSELF."



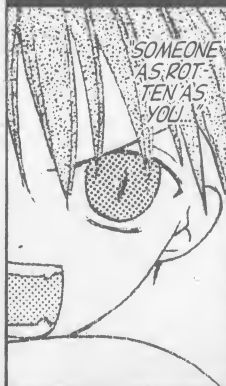
HE  
YELLED  
THAT AT  
HIS OWN  
FATHER.

"IT'S ALL  
BECAUSE YOU  
EXIST!"

"IT'S ALL  
YOUR  
FAULT,  
RAT!"

OH,  
RIGHT.

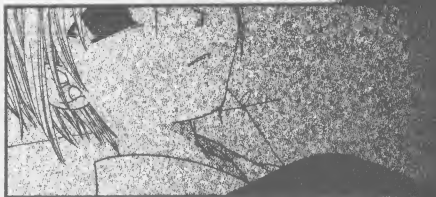
"EVERYTHING'S  
YOUR FAULT!"



WOW.



IT'S  
THE RAT'S  
FAULT HE'S  
A LAUGHING-  
STOCK.



"SOMEONE  
AS ROTTEN  
AS YOU..."

...OUGHTA  
DO US ALL  
A FAVOR!"



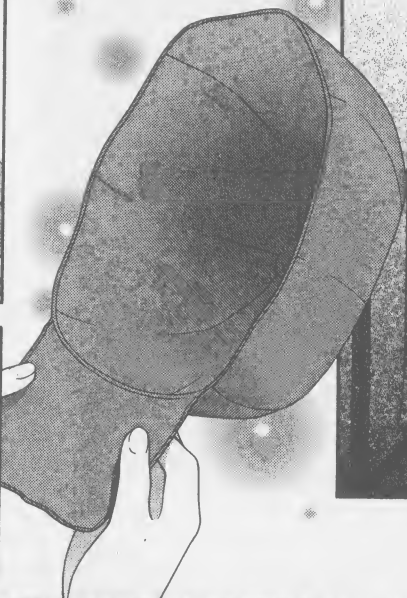


I HAVE  
TO GIVE  
IT BACK.

I  
JUST...

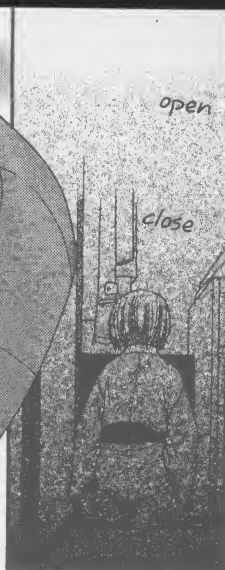


I DOUBT  
HE'LL  
TAKE IT.



open

close



I DON'T  
KNOW  
ANYTHING.

I DON'T  
KNOW HIS  
SADNESS.



IF I REALLY  
DID DISAPPEAR  
FROM THIS  
WORLD...

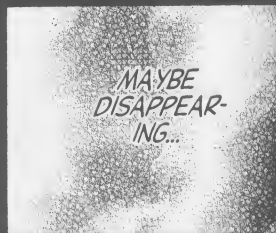
...WOULD  
EVEN A LITTLE  
OF HIS SADNESS  
DISAPPEAR?

IF MY DARK,  
USELESS WORLD  
IS SUCH A HATED  
PLACE, THEN THERE  
REALLY IS NO POINT  
TO MY EXISTENCE.

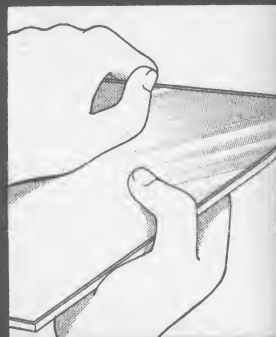
"WELL?"



IT  
DOESN'T  
SUIT ME.



MAYBE  
DISAPPEAR-  
ING...



...IS THE  
FIRST  
TRULY  
USEFUL  
THING I  
CAN DO.



"YUKI..."

...ARE YOU  
GOING TO  
DIE?"



SOME-  
THING  
BURST  
THEN.



MAYBE  
I WANTED  
TO HURT  
MYSELF.

OR  
MAYBE  
I WANTED  
TO FEEL  
BETTER.



I JUST  
WANTED  
TO MOVE,  
TO RUN.



SOMETHING  
DEEP INSIDE  
MY HEART.

I COULDN'T  
THINK  
STRAIGHT.





I DIDN'T  
STOP, EVEN  
WHEN I  
COULD  
BARELY  
BREATHE.



RIGHT  
AFTER  
DAWN, THE  
STREETS  
WERE  
MOSTLY  
EMPTY.

I RAN AS  
FAR AS  
I COULD  
GO.

I WAS  
BAD AT  
GIVING  
UP.



...THAT  
WAS  
PROB-  
ABLY  
IT.



BEFORE I  
KNEW IT, I'D  
LOST MY  
WAY.



I STILL  
DIDN'T  
STOP.

Y  
A  
A  
A  
H!  
H!


AND  
THEN...  
I FOUND  
SOME-  
THING.



WE'LL, UH...  
NEED THAT  
DESCRIPTION  
ONE MORE  
TIME.

GET  
OFF MY  
BACK AND  
FIND MY  
BABY!

HOW CAN  
I KEEP IT  
DOWN WHEN  
MY ONLY  
DAUGHTER'S  
MISSING?!



O-O-KAA-  
SAN, IT'S  
VERY  
EARLY.  
WOULD  
YOU MIND  
KEEPING  
IT--

Down?!  
DOWN?!



Aaaaah!


SHE'S  
SO FRICKIN'  
ADORABLE,  
SOMEONE  
PROBABLY  
WALKED OFF  
WITH HER!

WHAT'LL  
I DO?! IF  
ANYTHING  
HAPPENS TO  
HER, I...

I...

I'M  
AFRAID  
NOT.

GOT  
IT?!



CRRR!

I  
already  
told  
you!

SHE'S AN  
ADORABLE GIRL  
WITH AN ADOR-  
ABLE VOICE AND  
FACE, WEAR-  
ING ADORABLE  
CLOTHES AND  
WITH ADORABLE  
POM-POMS IN  
HER HAIR!

pop  
snap  
crack

Mwu  
ha  
ha  
ha

I WILL  
RAIN DEATH  
UPON YOUR  
MISERABLE,  
CURSED  
SOUL.

p-please  
settle  
down.

You'll scare the  
local children.

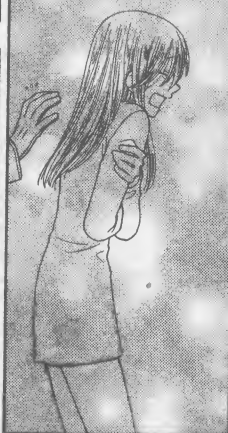
ha  
ha  
ha!



"...AND  
WITH  
ADORABLE  
POM-POMS  
IN HER  
HAIR!"

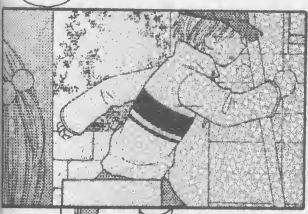
WAIT.

THERE ARE  
MOTHERS WHO  
REALLY WORRY  
ABOUT THEIR  
CHILDREN THAT  
MUCH?



...I'M  
SCARED!

FORGET ALL  
OF YOU! I'LL  
FIND HER  
MYSELF!



HOW  
FAR  
BACK  
WAS IT?

THAT  
SOUNDS  
FAMILIAR.

OKAA-SAN,  
PLEASE  
JUST WAIT  
AT HOME!

BUT...



HERE,  
MAYBE.

I'M SURE  
IT WAS  
AROUND  
HERE.

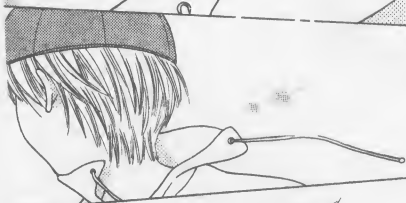


I WONDER  
IF I JUST  
IMAGINED...







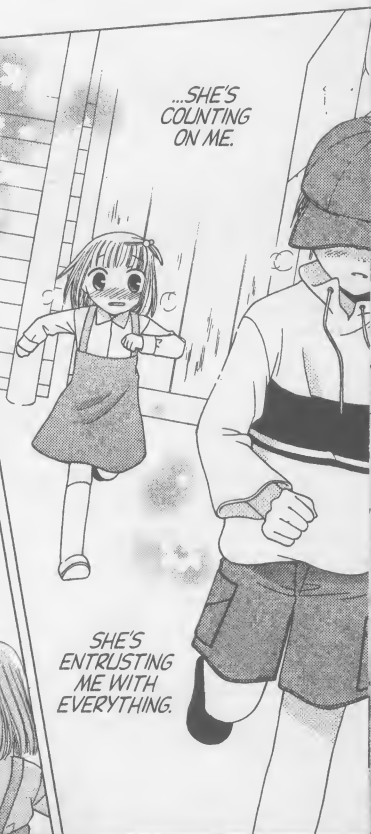


BUT  
RIGHT  
NOW...



SHE'S  
DESPERATE--  
THAT'S WHY  
SHE'S TRAILING  
AFTER ME.

SHE  
WANTS  
TO FIND  
HER WAY  
AGAIN.



...SHE'S  
COUNTING  
ON ME.

SHE'S  
ENTRUSTING  
ME WITH  
EVERYTHING.

ME.



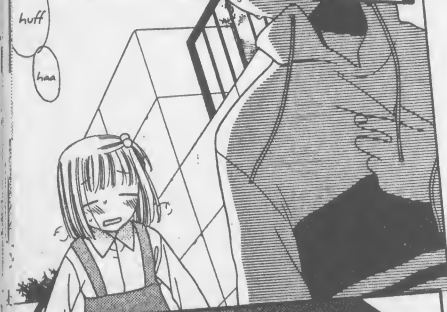
SHE'S...

...COUNTING  
ON ME.





huff



huff

hna



LOOK.

YOU  
MADE  
IT.

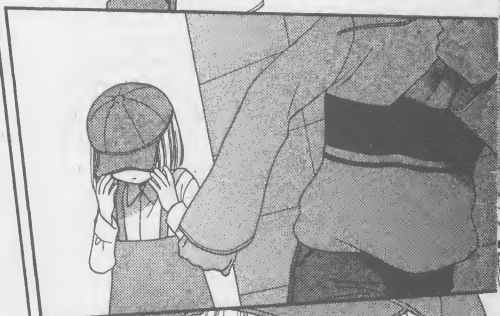


**THIS  
GIRL  
NEEDS  
ME.**

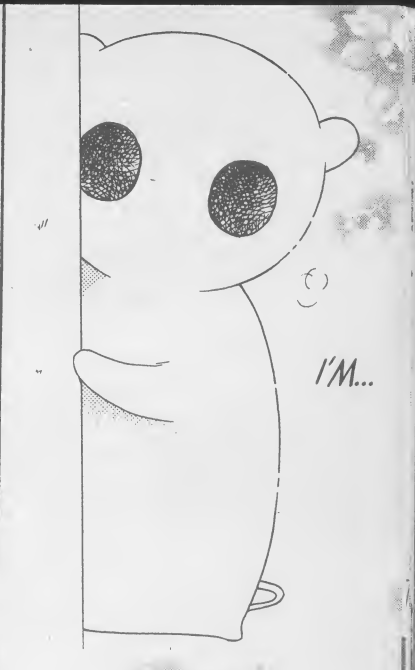
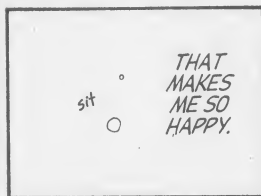
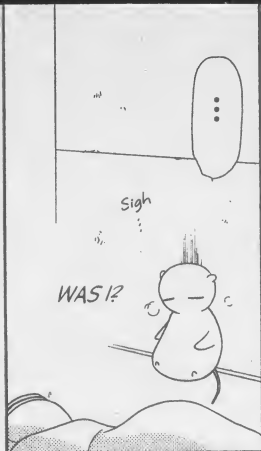




*GOOD  
WORK.*







...WHEN  
SOMEBODY  
NEEDED  
ME

THERE  
WAS A  
TIME...

THAT'S  
RIGHT.

...A  
MOMENT...

I  
REMEMBER.

GOOD LORD,  
YUKI-SAN!

WHERE  
HAVE  
YOU  
BEEN?!

NEVER  
MIND, JUST  
CALL THE  
DOCTOR!

Y-YES,  
MA'AM!

HURRY  
AND CALL  
SENSEI!

I KNOW  
IT DID.

EVEN IF  
NO ONE  
ELSE  
REMEM-  
BERS.

EVEN  
IF YOU  
YOURSELF  
FORGET.

THAT  
MOMENT  
STILL  
HAPPENED.



IT  
ISN'T  
ONLY  
BLACK.



THE  
WORLD IS  
MORE THAN  
DARKNESS.



IT'S  
TRUE.

THIS  
ISN'T A  
WORLD  
ENVELOPED  
IN LIGHT.



AND  
YET...

...THERE'S  
MORE TO  
IT THAN  
THAT.



WHAT'S SO  
"PITIFUL AND  
PATHETIC"?

YOU'VE BEEN  
SPACING OUT  
FOR A WHILE  
THERE.

...WELL?

Uh-oh.

YOU DON'T  
WANNA  
HURL AGAIN,  
DO YOU?

IT WAS  
AROUND THAT  
TIME THAT I  
MET HONDA-  
SAN.

IT'S NOT A  
PLEASANT  
MEMORY.

I LIVED AN  
ISOLATED LIFE;  
MY OWN FAMILY  
ABANDONED ME.

I  
WAS JUST...  
THINKING  
ABOUT MY  
CHILDHOOD.







...I'M AN  
IDIOT.

HOPE.

IT  
TURNED  
TO DESPAIR.

...TURNED  
TO  
JEALOUSY.

AND  
ASPIRA-  
TION...

I  
WANTED  
TO BE  
LOVED.

THE  
DARKNESS  
IS VAST AND  
STIFLING.

IN THE  
END...


...IT EVEN  
TWISTED  
ME.



IN THE  
END...

...I JUST  
CLOSED UP  
INSIDE MY  
SHELL.

*I REJECTED  
THE WORLD  
AND PROTECTED  
MYSELF.*



I GUESS  
I'M JUST  
HOPELESS.



AND  
YET...

I WANTED  
HIM TO BE  
MY FRIEND.

THAT  
WAS  
ALL, YOU  
KNOW?



I MAY BE  
HOPELESS...

DESPITE  
ALL  
THAT.

STILL,  
THOUGH.



...BUT  
SHE  
STILL...

A black and white manga panel showing a boy on the left and a girl on the right. The boy is looking down, and the girl is looking towards him with a slight smile. They are both wearing dark, textured jackets. The background is a soft, hazy landscape.

...RETURNED  
TO MY  
LIFE.

SHE  
CAME  
BACK TO  
ME.

SHE  
STAYED  
BY MY  
SIDE.

A black and white manga panel showing three children in a hallway. A girl with long hair is on the left, a boy in a white shirt and tie is in the center, and another girl is on the right. They are standing near a doorway.

SHE  
DIDN'T  
MIND...

...BEING  
WITH ME.

A black and white manga panel showing a close-up of a boy's face. He is looking down with a somber expression. His hair is short and dark.

AND SHE  
NEVER GOT  
FED UP OR  
REPRIMANDED  
ME.

A black and white manga panel showing a girl sitting on the ground, looking up with a smile. She is wearing a dark jacket. In the background, there are other people, including a boy with long hair.

SHE  
LISTENED  
TO WHAT I  
HAD TO SAY.

AGAIN.

AND  
AGAIN...



LIKE  
THE  
SKY...

...BOTH  
NEAR AND  
FAR.

LIKE  
A REAL  
MOTHER  
WOULD.

AND  
AGAIN...

...SHE'S  
ACCEPTED  
ME.

THAT  
BELOVED  
HUMAN  
BEING.

## Chapter 86

AN ODD  
GIRL WHO  
LIVED IN  
A TENT.

SHIGURE,  
DON'T BE  
RUDE.

SHE WAS  
JUST A  
CLASS-  
MATE.

I WASN'T  
REALLY  
CONSCIOUS  
OF HER.

NOT AT  
FIRST,  
ANYWAY.

I WAS  
PROBABLY  
REBELLING,  
STUPIDLY,  
AGAINST THE  
FAMILY AND  
THE CURSE.

YOU'LL  
FIT  
RIGHT  
IN.

OKAY,  
JUST BE  
YOUR-  
SELF...

...AND DO  
THINGS AT  
YOUR OWN  
PACE.

I DON'T THINK  
I INVITED HER  
INTO OUR HOME  
JUST BECAUSE  
SHE NEEDED IT.

THERE  
IS ONE  
THING.

VERY  
DIRECT.

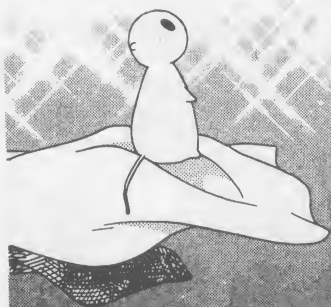
SHE  
WAS  
VERY  
CLEAR.

BUT I  
REMEM-  
BER...

...WHAT  
SHE  
SAID.

PLEASE...IF  
MY MEMORIES  
ARE ERASED...

...WILL YOU  
STILL BE MY  
FRIEND?





"LIKE A  
MOTHER  
WOULD"?

THAT'S,  
UH...

HM.

A  
MOTHER?

I ACHED  
FOR IT,  
REALLY.

THAT  
KIND OF  
PARENTAL  
LOVE...

I'D NEVER  
REALLY  
KNOWN IT  
BEFORE.

I  
WANTED  
THAT.

YOU  
LOST  
ME.

*But  
hey!*

YOU WANT  
MY MOM?  
YOU CAN  
HAVE HER.

HA  
HA.



SHE SAID  
THAT  
PEOPLE  
AREN'T  
BORN  
WITH KIND  
HEARTS.



AND SHE  
NEVER  
LOOKED  
FRUSTRATED.

SHE LISTENED  
TO EVERYTHING  
I COULD THINK  
TO COMPLAIN  
ABOUT.



THAT'S  
WHY...



SHE  
ACCEPTED ME  
COMPLETELY.



BUT AT  
THE SAME  
TIME...

...SHE  
DIDN'T  
DENY...



...IT MADE  
ME SO  
HAPPY.



...THAT  
OTHER  
PEOPLE  
ARE AS  
WEAK AS  
I AM.



IT  
MADE ME  
FEEL...

...AT  
PEACE,  
YOU  
KNOW?

THAT  
MADE ME  
SO HAPPY.

THERE  
WAS A  
PLACE  
WHERE I  
COULD SUR-  
RENDER MY  
MIND AND  
BODY  
A PLACE  
WHERE  
I COULD  
GIVE UP

...AND  
ACT LIKE  
A LITTLE  
BOY

LIKE A  
SLEEPING  
CHILD

GOING  
TO BED,  
FILLED  
WITH  
KINDNESS

RIN CAN  
UNDER-  
STAND  
THAT.

I WAS  
LOOKING  
FOR A  
MOTHER.

I NEEDED  
A MOTHER'S  
LOVE.

RIN.

...AND  
YET STILL  
SHOWERED  
WITH UNCON-  
DITIONAL  
LOVE



...FOR  
SOME  
REASON...

I FEEL  
LIKE...

REALIZED  
IT THAT  
NIGHT.



...  
EVEN  
THOUGH  
SHE'S A GIRL  
YOU CAN BE  
ATTRACTED  
TO?



YES.



AND  
BEFORE  
I KNEW  
IT...

...I  
FOUND  
IT IN  
HONDA-  
SAN.

SHE HAD  
THE FORM  
OF A REAL  
WOMAN.



THE  
NIGHT  
KYO  
TRANS-  
FORMED.

I NOTICED  
SOMETHING  
AS SHE RAN  
AFTER HIM.

WHY WAS I  
STRUCK SO  
INTENSELY  
BY THAT?

WHY  
DID I  
SEE HER  
THAT  
WAY?

I  
WONDER



AND  
THAT'S  
WHAT I'D  
BEEN  
LOOKING  
FOR.

...SHE WAS  
REALLY  
MORE LIKE  
A MOTHER  
TO ME.

BEFORE  
SHE WAS  
SOMEONE OF  
THE OPPO-  
SITE SEX...

WELL.

BUT I  
PANICKED.

*ALWAYS.*

*I JUST  
WANTED TO  
BE CHILDISH  
IN A PLACE  
I FELT COM-  
FORTABLE.*

*IT'S NOT  
AS IF I  
WANTED  
TO DO  
ANY-  
THING.*

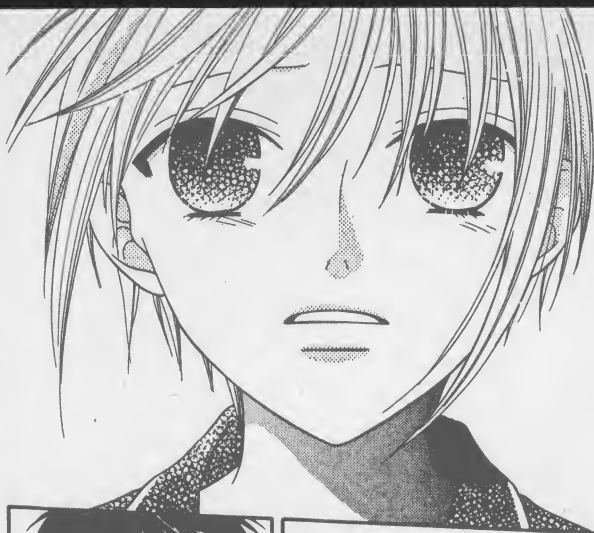
I  
PRETENDED  
TO NOT  
REALIZE.

AT  
FIRST,  
ANYWAY.

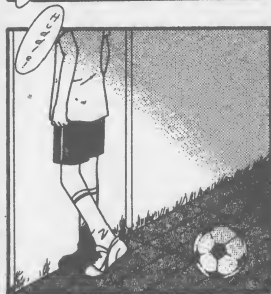
THE WHOLE  
THING WAS  
EMBARRASSING,  
AND I DIDN'T  
WANT TO ADMIT  
TO IT.

WHEN I  
REALIZED I  
WAS THINKING  
OF HER THAT  
WAY, I GOT  
CONFUSED.

VERY  
CONFUSED,  
ACTUALLY.



I PUT A  
LID ON MY  
FEELINGS.



*Slowly.*

Now I'm going to revive all the chat of the Furuba characters. I wonder if I should talk about main characters, too? Even the lead characters have pieces of their back stories the manga can't cover. I think I'll write carefully about them and center on those things. And so, without daring to comment on whether or not I should bother writing things that aren't in the manga, here you go... (I'm losing material.)

... (O) ...

We'll begin with he who is often known as the best marriage material of the cast:

**Hatori.**



Hatori was once part of a family of three, with his father (who died of an illness when he was in high school) and his mother (who died of an illness when he was in elementary school).

By the way, the doctor who appears in the first scene of Chapter 85 is Hatori's father. (You can't tell.)

They were very strict parents. It wasn't a particularly warm home.

←  
To be continued...



QUIT ARGUING WITH YOURSELF, YUKI. IT'S JUST AS BAD AS GIVING UP.

IS THAT REALLY SUCH A BAD THING?

NOT THAT I COMPLETELY GET IT...

...BUT I HEARD THAT LOTS OF PEOPLE LOOK FOR MOMS IN THEIR GIRL-FRIENDS.



KYO. ANYWAY, IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU THINK YOU CAN'T COMPETE WITH HIM.

WHAT'S THAT GUY'S NAME-- KYO?







YOU CAN  
SEE IT IN  
HER EYES,  
TOO.

Mm...

YOUR  
VOICE  
GETTING  
QUIETER  
YOU  
KNOW?

AND  
SHE ONLY  
DIRECTS  
THAT AT  
HIM.

BELIEVE  
ME.

THAT'S  
NOT THE  
REASON.

IT'S TRUE  
THAT I  
WANTED  
TO BE LIKE  
HIM.

AND HE  
CERTAINLY  
DOES...

THAT'S  
NOT IT.

...SEE  
HER AS A  
WOMAN.

HE  
LOOKS  
AT HER  
WITH  
LOVE.

YOU  
CAN  
SEE IT  
IN HIS  
EYES.



I DON'T  
CARE  
ABOUT  
THAT!



OOF.



WHETHER  
OR NOT I'M  
A MATCH  
FOR HIM...

...WHETHER  
IT'S GOOD OR  
BAD, RIGHT  
OR WRONG.

MAYBE SOME  
COUPLES DO  
FEEL THAT  
WAY.

WELL,  
FINE. FINE.

I DON'T  
CARE  
ABOUT  
ALL THAT.



I DON'T  
LIKE IT!



IT'S  
JUST...

...I DON'T  
LIKE IT.



IT'S  
SO...

...



...IT'S  
SO DAMN  
LONELY.

I WANT  
TO GIVE...

I DON'T  
WANT  
TO JUST  
SLEEP.  
I DON'T  
WANT  
TO JUST  
RECEIVE.

I WANT TO  
NEED SOME-  
ONE, AND BE  
NEEDED IN  
RETURN.

EVEN  
I WANT  
SOMEONE  
WHO  
LIVES  
ON MY  
LEVEL.

...I WANT  
TO DO  
IT BY  
MY OWN  
STRENGTH.

AND  
THIS  
TIME...

I WANT  
TO FIND IT.

...SOMETHING  
ONLY I CAN  
GIVE.



...AND NOT  
WASTE  
WHAT I  
HAVE.

IT'S  
N-NOT...  
THAT I'M  
GIVING UP.

I'M BAD  
AT GIVING  
UP. REALLY,  
I AM.



I'M...  
A GREEDY  
HUMAN  
BEING.

I WANT  
TO FIND MY  
OWN PROOF.

I DON'T  
WANT TO  
LOSE TO  
THE DARK-  
NESS.

I WANT  
TO GO  
FORWARD.

I WANT TO  
BELIEVE  
THIS TIME...

FUELED  
BY THE  
MANY KIND-  
NESSES...

...AND  
ALL THE  
WARMTH  
YOU GAVE  
ME.



I WANT  
TO START  
WALKING  
AGAIN.

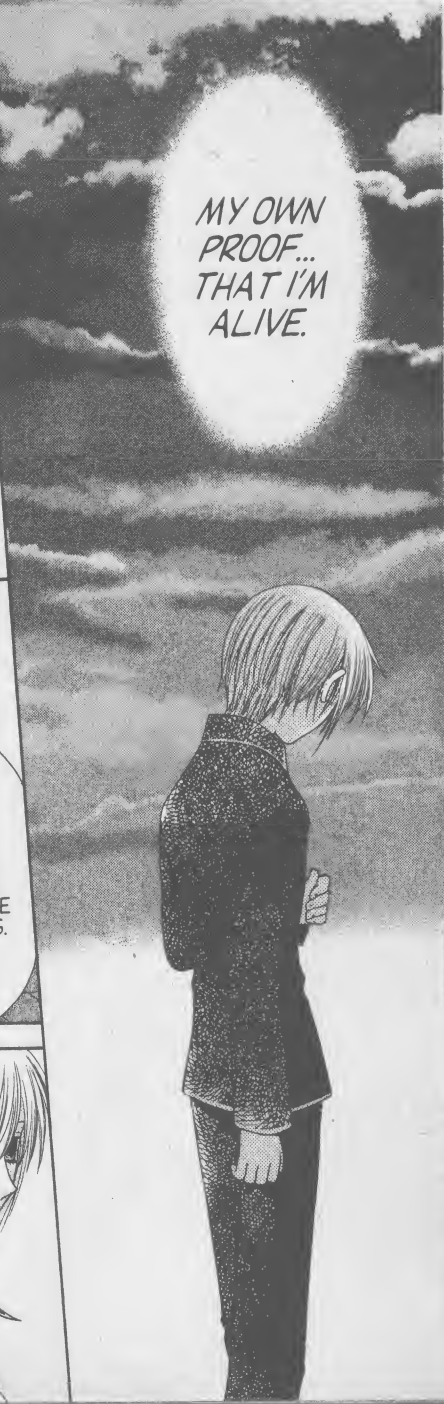


"YOU'RE  
LEAVING  
THE  
NEST?"

THAT'S  
PRETTY  
RARE,  
Y'KNOW.



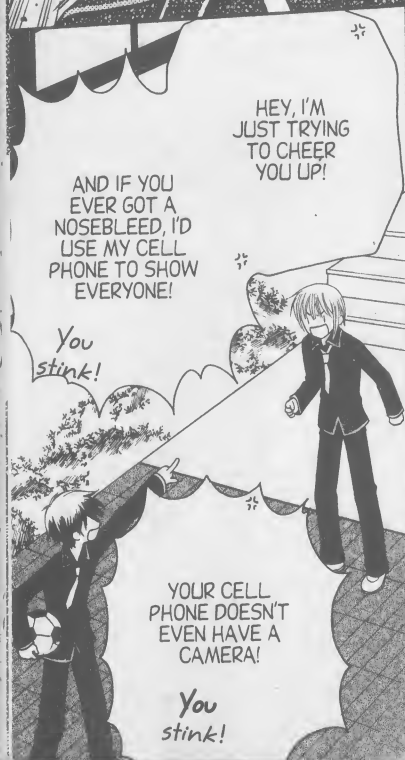
NOT  
THAT MANY  
PEOPLE ARE  
SO DESPERATE  
ABOUT LIVING.



MY OWN  
PROOF...  
THAT I'M  
ALIVE.



DON'T  
CRY,  
YUN-  
YUN!



HEY, I'M  
JUST TRYING  
TO CHEER  
YOU UP!

AND IF YOU  
EVER GOT A  
NOSEBLEED, I'D  
USE MY CELL  
PHONE TO SHOW  
EVERYONE!

You  
stink!

YOUR CELL  
PHONE DOESN'T  
EVEN HAVE A  
CAMERA!

You  
stink!



grab

ow.

THAT  
HURT!

I DON'T  
APPRECIATE  
THE SUDDEN  
THREAT OF A  
NOSEBLEED!

Caught  
with his  
guard  
down.

GAH!

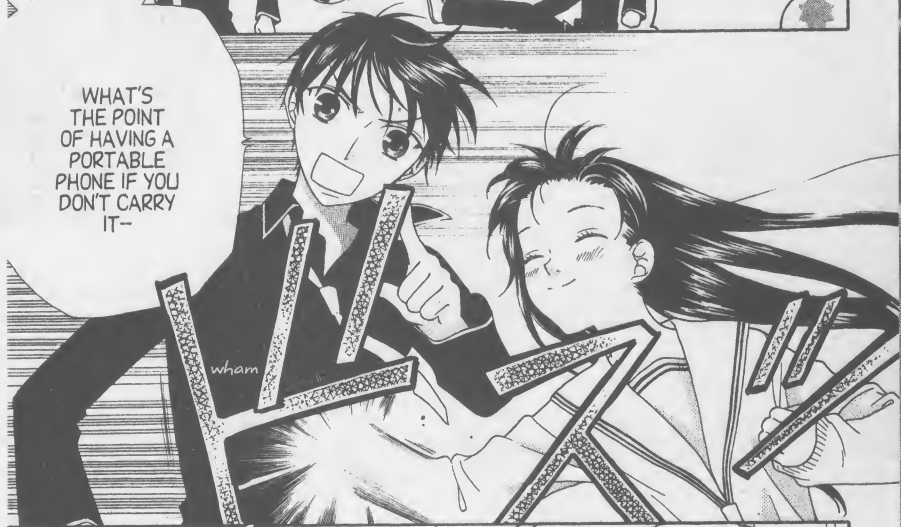


OH, I'M  
SO SORRY--  
IT'S IN MY BOOK  
BAG AT THE  
MOMENT.

OOPS.

THEN  
GIMME  
YOURS!

WHA?!



WHAT'S  
THE POINT  
OF HAVING A  
PORTABLE  
PHONE IF YOU  
DON'T CARRY  
IT--

wham



AND KIMI--  
THANK YOU.  
DID YOU  
COME TO  
CHECK ON  
ME?

I  
SURE  
DID!

Since you  
didn't come  
back.

DOESN'T  
MY LYING  
HERE, I  
DUNNO,  
BOTTER  
ANYONE?

Urgh.

MY CONDO-  
LENCES,  
SIR.

Hmph!

YOU'RE  
SO VIOLENT,  
KAKERU.  
LEAVE  
YUN-YUN'S  
FACE ALONE!

Grr!

Innards...  
caving...





UM...I'M  
FEELING  
RELIEVED.

I THINK.



OF...  
COURSE  
YOU ARE.

OF COURSE  
I'M BOTHERED!  
I'M WORRIED  
ABOUT  
YUN-YUN!

ARE YOU  
FEELING  
OKAY NOW?



FEEL-  
ING?

...



GOOD.



Relieved?  
Did you  
puke?

IS IT  
BECAUSE  
I TOLD  
SOME-  
ONE?

THOSE  
WERE  
ALL  
SECRETS  
UNTIL  
NOW.

DO YOU  
NOW?

YOU'RE  
KEEPING A  
SECRET FROM  
KIMI? WHAT  
WERE YOU  
TWO TALKING  
ABOUT?!

Hold  
on a  
sec!

OR  
MAYBE IT'S  
BECAUSE...

...HE'S  
ACTUALLY  
VERY NICE.

Forget  
it, Kimi.

Huh?

Huh?

SOME-  
THING  
PAINFUL?

UH...

IS IT  
BECAUSE  
SOMEONE IN A  
COMPLETELY  
DIFFERENT  
WORLD.

OMIGOD!  
NO WAY  
no way!  
something  
totally  
indecent?!

...ACTUALLY  
LISTENED  
TO ME?

WE  
HAVE  
DIRTY  
MINDS.

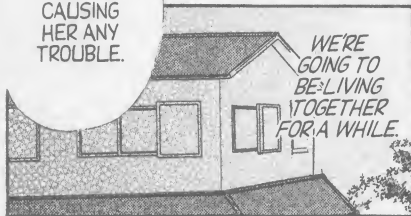
WHY DOES  
IT ALWAYS  
RETURN TO  
THAT?



I DON'T  
WANT TO  
MAKE HER  
WORRY.

AT THE  
MOMENT  
...

...I'D LIKE  
TO AVOID  
CAUSING  
HER ANY  
TROUBLE.



WE'RE  
GOING TO  
BE LIVING  
TOGETHER  
FOR A WHILE.



ER...

Y'KNOW,  
ABOUT  
ALL THAT  
STUFF.

ANYWAY,  
WHY HAVEN'T  
YOU TALKED  
TO HER YET?



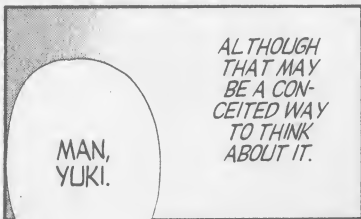
YOU  
REALLY  
ARE A  
GOOD  
GUY.



AND SHE  
ALWAYS  
PUTS  
OTHERS  
BEFORE  
HERSELF.

KNOWING  
"MY FEEL-  
INGS MAYBE  
TOO MUCH  
FOR HER TO  
HANDLE."

...H.M.



ALTHOUGH  
THAT MAY  
BE A CON-  
CEITED WAY  
TO THINK  
ABOUT IT.

MAN,  
YUKI.

IT'S A MASSIVE  
TROUBLE. THE  
BURDEN OF ALL  
BURDENS. I'LL  
HAVE NIGHTMARES  
FOR SURE.

AND I MAY  
NEVER HAVE  
THE WILL TO  
EAT AGAIN.

THAT  
BAD,  
HUH?

Let's  
ditch  
him!

I'LL  
BE ABLE  
TO TELL HER  
SOMEDAY.



What?  
AM I  
TROUBLING  
YOU?!

I  
knew  
it!

HOLD  
ON A  
SEC.  
  
BUT IT'S  
OKAY TO  
GIVE ME  
TROUBLE?



I'M  
SURE  
OF IT.

WH-WHAT  
DO I DO?

I Have a  
mountain  
of lines!

I  
READ  
THE  
SCRIPT.

CINDERELLA,  
HUH?

Wait.

KYO-KUN  
IS PRINCE  
CHARMING?  
YOU'VE GOT TO  
BE KIDDING!

ER...  
THAT'S  
RIGHT.

Pfft!

I'D PAY  
MONEY TO SEE  
THAT. WHERE'D  
I LEAVE THE  
CAMCORDER?

WHAT  
IF I DRAW A  
BLANK AND RUIN  
THE PLAY FOR  
EVERYONE?!

I-I'M NOT  
SURE I CAN  
REMEMBER  
THEM ALL  
AND NOT  
FORGET  
ANY!

The  
unparalleled  
nervousness is  
swirling like  
a storm.

YOU'RE DOING  
A PLAY? OOH,  
WHICH ONE?

Lemme  
see!

Heh heh.

SHUT  
UP! STOP  
LAUGH-  
ING!

AND  
GIMME  
THAT,  
DAMMIT!

OH!

TOHRU...

Y-  
YES!

06

AND  
ANOTHER  
THING.

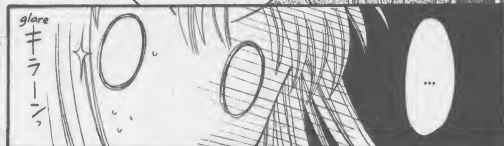
DON'T  
READ IT  
IN THIS  
HOUSE!

B-BUT...  
IF YOU TAKE  
MY SCRIPT, I  
CAN'T LEARN  
MY LINES!

YOU  
CAN'T TELL  
SHISHOU.  
GOT THAT?

trof  
trof  
trof  
trof

stomp  
stomp  
stomp





I...

WHY  
HIDE IT? I'M  
THE MEAN  
STEPSISTER!

I WON'T  
LOSE!

UH, YOU'RE  
NOT THE ONE  
BEING MEAN.

AND HOW  
OLD ARE  
WE TURNING  
THIS YEAR?

NOT TO  
INTERRUPT, BUT  
MIGHT I HAVE  
THE PLEASURE  
OF ENTERING  
MY HOME?

Kyon-sama  
the Dim.

YUKI-  
KUN.



I'M HOME.



HOW LONG INDEED.



WELCOME HOME, YUKI-KUN!



YEEK!

THE POT'S BOILING OVER.



I-I'M SORRY! I'M COMING!



I can't believe a guy I hate saw that.

OH, HAVE THEY GIVEN OUT THE SCRIPT ALREADY?

YES! AND I HAVE YOURS, YUKI-KUN.

TOHRU-KUN!



HONDA-SAN HAS IT RIGHT NOW.



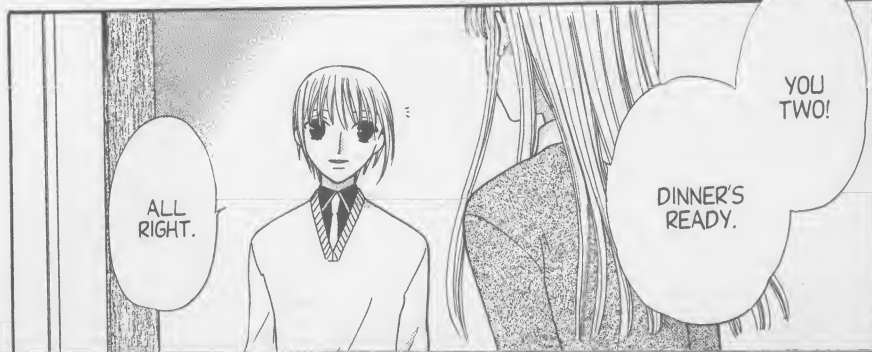
KYO.

WHAT?

ABOUT THE HAT.



YOU WON'T MIND IF I DON'T GIVE IT BACK, WILL YOU?



ALL RIGHT.

YOU TWO!

DINNER'S READY.



11



HM?

...EAT  
LATER.

I'LL...

I'M  
HUNGRY  
TODAY. I  
THINK I'LL  
EAT NOW.



WHAT  
?

UH...

I GUESS  
HE'S NOT  
READY TO  
DREDGE UP  
THAT BIT OF  
HIS PAST.



I DON'T  
WANT ANY  
TROUBLE.

BUT HE'D  
BETTER  
SHAPE UP  
SOON.

THE  
PERSON  
DEAR TO  
ME.

THE  
PERSON I SO  
ADMIRER...

SHE  
GAVE ME  
EXACTLY  
WHAT I  
NEEDED.



*SHE'S  
PRECIOUS  
TO ME.*



*THAT  
PLACE  
WHERE WE  
CAN SULK  
OR GET  
ANGRY IF  
WE NEED  
TO.*

*I'M SURE,  
ONE DAY...*

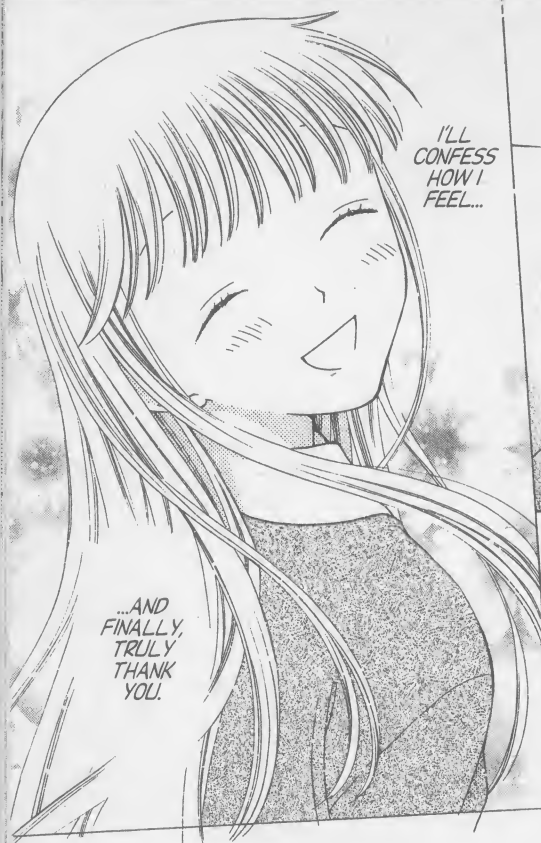
*I WANT  
YOU TO BE  
HAPPY.*

*YOU  
MORE THAN  
ANYONE.*



*...YOU  
CAN FIND  
YOUR  
OWN  
PROOF.*

*YOU'LL  
DO IT IN  
YOUR OWN  
WAY.*



I'LL  
CONFESS  
HOW I  
FEEL...

...AND  
FINALLY,  
TRULY  
THANK  
YOU!

ONE  
DAY.



AND  
WHEN  
THAT  
DAY  
COMES...

...I  
SHOULD  
BE ABLE  
TO TELL  
YOU.



Trust Ayame

THERE IS  
NO NEED TO  
REQUEST THE  
COSTUMES I  
ALREADY  
VISUALIZE!

SO YOUR  
CLASS WILL BE  
PERFORMING A PLAY  
AT THE CULTURAL  
FESTIVAL? NO, NO,  
NO, YUKI. YOU  
NEEDN'T SPEAK; I  
UNDERSTAND!


I HAVE  
HEARD,  
YUKI!

MORE  
PRECISELY, I  
HAVE READ! I  
WAS INFORMED  
BY BLACK-KUN,  
MY LOYAL E-MAIL  
COMPANION.



AHEM!

I SHALL  
EXERCISE MY  
SKILL SO THAT  
MY BELOVED LIT-  
TLE BROTHER CAN  
SPARKLE MORE  
GLORIOUSLY THAN  
ANYONE ON  
STAGE!



AND  
HOW MANY  
TIMES WILL  
YOU BE CHANG-  
ING OUTFITS,  
YUKI?

IT'S  
NOT A  
WEDDING,  
NII-SAN.

CLEARLY.

DIRECTLY.



Filler Sketch



Prince in a hat.



## Chapter 87



**I FEEL SO  
GRATEFUL!**  
@

Harada-sama,  
Araki-sama, mother,  
Editor-sama.

And thanks to everyone who  
reads and supports this manga.

I can't forget my  
Ane-san, either. Yo!

This has been Natsuki Takaya.

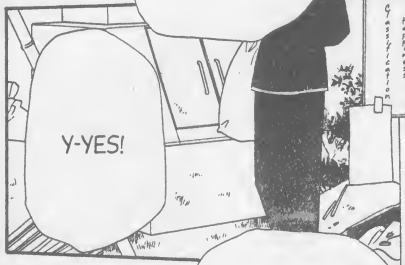
They really  
are antisocial.  
I'm sorry!





LORD...  
YOU'RE  
SUCH A  
SIMPLETON.

WOULDN'T  
YOU AGREE,  
MY DEAR?



Y-YES!



Er...  
IF YOU  
DON'T HURRY  
AND FINISH...  
YOU MOST  
CERTAINLY  
WON'T GET...

GET...



HURRY  
UP AND  
MAKE OUR  
DRESSES!

THE  
ROYAL BALL'S  
TOMORROW,  
REMEMBER?

HEY!  
CINDERELLA!

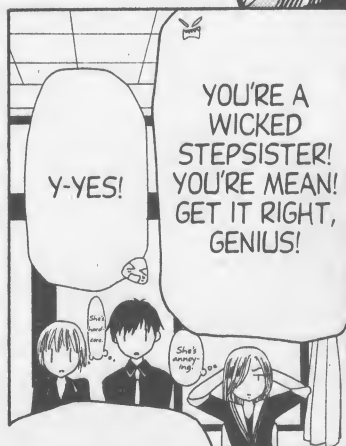
2-D

GET  
ANY...!

**STOP  
CRYING,  
FOR  
GOD'S  
SAKE!**

ANY...

...DINNER!



**CRUSH  
HER SELF-  
ESTEEM  
INTO TEENY  
TINY PIECES!**





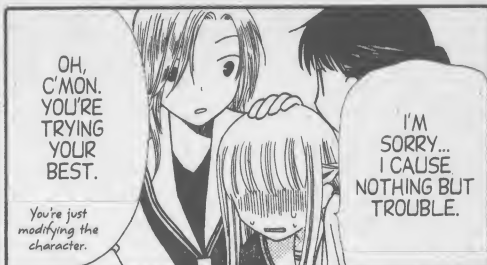




WHY  
WOULDN'T  
THE WICKED  
SISTER GET  
DINNER?

I DON'T  
MIND IF I  
DON'T GET  
DINNER!

TIME  
FLEW  
BY.



OH,  
C'MON.  
YOU'RE  
TRYING  
YOUR  
BEST.

You're just  
modifying the  
character.

I'M  
SORRY...  
I CAUSE  
NOTHING BUT  
TROUBLE.



JUST  
LET ME  
TRY IT  
ONCE  
MORE!

I'LL  
WORK  
HARDER.  
I WILL!



...AND  
THE MINUTE  
THAT TESTS  
ENDED, WE  
WERE BUSY  
WITH THE  
CULTURAL  
FESTIVAL.

SO  
MANY DAYS  
PASSED IN  
THE BLINK  
OF AN EYE.

FIRST  
IT WAS  
THE TEST  
PREPARA-  
TIONS...

Continuation →



The memory-suppression technique was passed down from his father.

It's similar to hypnosis, really.

Hatori doesn't specifically have to be the one who suppresses memories, but his family is the one that hands down the technique.

He enjoys smoking and can hold his liquor.

He's lazy in some respects. When he undresses, for example, he tends to leave his clothes lying around.

When he was in high school, he was fairly popular with the students from the girls' school next door. All three of the Mabudachi Trio were popular in that regard.

← To be continued

...I'D LIKE  
TO HAVE  
ANOTHER  
VOTE.

CINDERELLA  
WILL BE  
HANA-CHAN,  
AND PRINCE  
CHARMING  
WILL BE  
KYO-KLIN.

Cinderella: Sabi Hanajima

Prince Charming: Kyo Sekma

Stepmother: Minami Kinoshita

Stepsister: Tokru Honda

Fairy Godmother: Yubi Sekma

OUR CLASS  
IS PLANNING  
TO PUT ON A  
PLAY OF  
"CINDERELLA."

I'M  
WORRIED.

KYO-KLIN  
WOULD  
MAKE SUCH  
A WONDER-  
FUL PRINCE  
CHARMING...

You  
should  
rehearse.  
Ani-  
san.

Bah.

BUT KYO-KLIN  
SEEMS UPSET  
ABOUT IT. HE  
WOULDN'T  
PARTICIPATE  
IN REHEARSAL  
TODAY, EITHER.

THIS IS  
A RARE  
OPPORTU-  
NITY, SO I  
HOPE THE  
PERFOR-  
MANCE  
GOES  
WELL.

AND OUR  
COSTUMES  
WERE ALL  
CUSTOM-  
MADE.

Dry your  
tears, my  
lost little  
lambs!

EVERYONE'S  
WORKING AS  
A TEAM.

Start Flashback





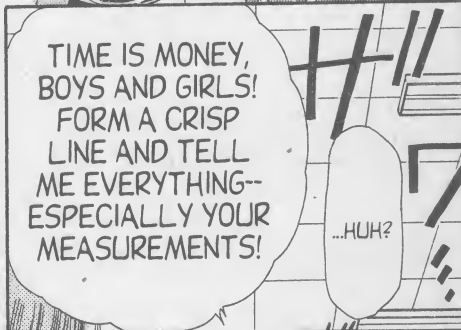
Ayame  
Has  
arrived!

I DON'T WANT  
TO LET DOWN  
AYAME-SAN  
AND MINE-SAN.



NII-  
SAN?!

OH, MY  
HONEY!



TIME IS MONEY,  
BOYS AND GIRLS!  
FORM A CRISP  
LINE AND TELL  
ME EVERYTHING--  
ESPECIALLY YOUR  
MEASUREMENTS!

...HUH?



WOW... NII-SAN  
REALLY CAME.

DID YOU EXPECT  
ANYTHING LESS?  
I'M A MAN WHO  
NEVER GOES BACK  
ON HIS WORD!

BUT THIS  
PLACE IS  
ONLY OPEN  
TO PEOPLE  
WITH THE  
SCHOOL.

OF COURSE!  
IN THE NAME OF  
THE HEAVENS  
AND THE EARTH,  
THE PRINCIPAL  
BESTOWED  
HIS MIGHTY  
PERMISSION  
UPON US!

LET  
US BEGIN,  
MINE!

YES,  
MANAGER!

YOU'LL  
GET  
CAUGHT.

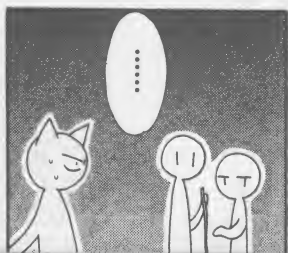
NO NEED TO  
FRET, MY PET. I  
CAN EASILY BREAK  
DOWN ANY OBSTACLE  
THAT OBSTRUCTS  
THE PATH OF US  
LOVING BROTHERS...



WE GOT  
PERMISSION.  
NO WORRIES  
THERE.



YOU'RE  
LOOKING  
FOR THE GUY  
HALFWAY  
OUT THE  
DOOR.



UM,  
I'M NOT  
PLAYING  
PRINCE  
CHARMING.

NOW! YUKI,  
SUBMIT TO  
MY MEASURE-  
MENTS.

I SHALL  
MAKE YOU INTO  
A GORGEOUS AND  
SLENDER PRINCE  
CHARMING!

Behold the  
power of my  
measuring  
tape!



DESPITE MY  
COMPLETE LACK  
OF CARING, HE'S  
STILL MANAGING  
TO PISS ME OFF.

Ha!

KYONKICHI-  
KUN IS YOUR  
PRINCE? I SEE...  
YES, INDEED.

THERE'S NO  
REASON TO  
NOT MAKE HIM  
GORGEOUS AND  
SLENDER!



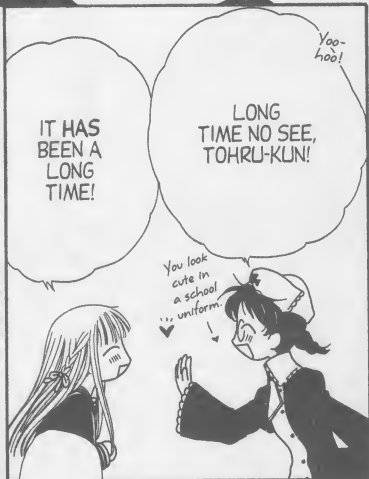
DRESS-  
ING  
UP...

DO YOU  
ENJOY  
DRESSING  
UP?

Mwee  
hee...  
hee  
hee...

MINE-SAN,  
PLEASE BE  
SENSIBLE!

Eek!

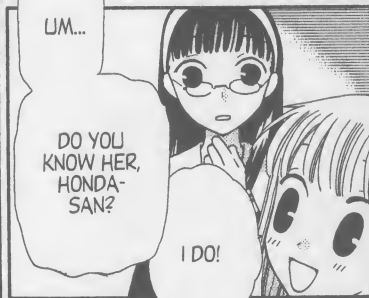


IT HAS  
BEEN A  
LONG  
TIME!

LONG  
TIME NO SEE,  
TOHRU-KUN!

Yoo-  
hoo!

You look  
cute in  
a school  
uniform.



UM...

DO YOU  
KNOW HER,  
HONDA-  
SAN?

I DO!

Oooh!

PLEASED  
TO MEET YOU!  
DO YOU ENJOY  
DRESSING UP?

HUH?

UH-OH.

I'M GOING  
TO MAKE  
EVERYONE'S  
COSTUMES!

Hm?

ARE YOU  
REALLY?

I SEE.

HEY. I'M  
UOTANI.

YOU A  
FRIEND OF  
TOHRU'S?

That's  
some  
outfit.

YES,  
THIS IS  
MINE-SAN!

MY  
NAME IS  
HANA-  
JIMA.

NOT  
THAT IT  
MATTERS...  
BUT YOU CAN'T,  
CINDERELLA!

PURE  
BLACK?!

IT'S  
"PURE  
WHITE!"

please,  
make my  
dress pure  
black.

SHE'S NOT  
DISTURBED!

SHE  
ACTUALLY  
SEEMS  
PLEASED!

pure  
black.

MMM...THAT  
HAS A NICE  
RING TO IT.

Consider  
it done!

I HAVE  
TO REPAY  
ALL THE  
TROUBLE  
THEY  
WENT TO.

I SUPPOSE  
THE TWO  
OF THEM  
LEAVE THAT  
IMPRESSION  
WHEN THEY  
RUSH IN LIKE  
THAT.

EVERY-  
ONE WAS  
SURPRISED,  
I THINK.

BUT  
FIRST,  
YOU  
CHILL.

I WILL  
TRY MY BEST  
DESPITE MY  
LACK OF  
DINNER!

I MUST  
WORK MY  
HARDEST!

End Flashback

UM...

ALL  
RIGHT, I'M  
R-READY!

OKAY!





SURE WE  
CAN. YOU KNOW  
THE CLASS  
THAT'S DOING  
MITO KOLIMON?

CAN WE  
REALLY  
CHANGE  
THE  
STORY?

THEY MADE  
KOLIMON-SAMA,  
SUIKE-SAN, AND  
KAKU-SAN WOMEN  
WHO KICKED THE  
TAR OUT OF THE  
BAD GUYS.

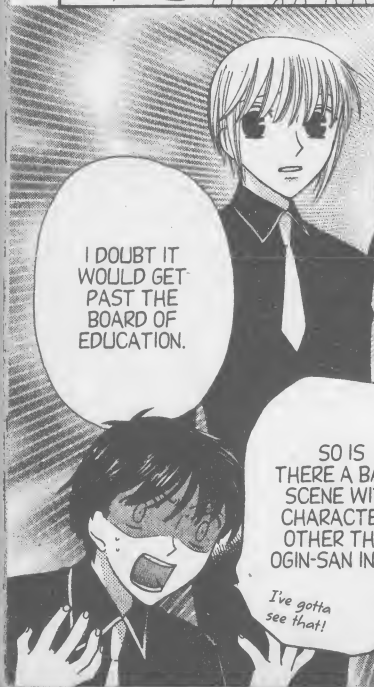


IN THAT  
CASE, FINE!  
I'LL REWRITE  
THE SCRIPT!

IF THE STORY  
FAILS WITH A  
MISCAST, THEN  
I'LL MAKE THE  
STORY FIT THE  
CAST!

**B-BUT  
YOUR  
LOGIC IS  
VIOLENT!**

*Inspiration  
strikes!*



I DOUBT IT  
WOULD GET  
PAST THE  
BOARD OF  
EDUCATION.

SO IS  
THERE A BATH  
SCENE WITH  
CHARACTERS  
OTHER THAN  
OGIN-SAN IN IT?!

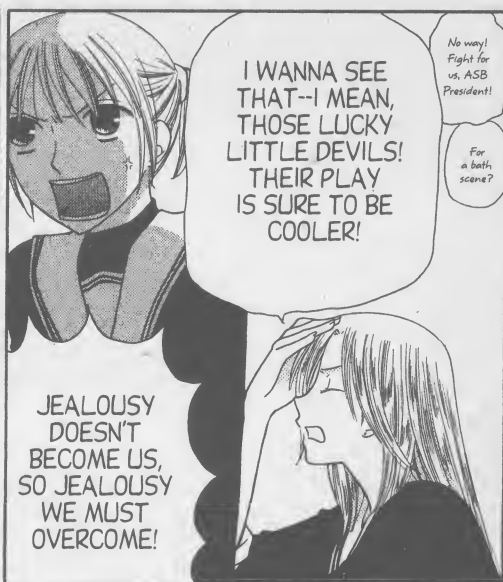
*I've gotta  
see that!*



FULL  
THROTTLE.

A JAPANESE  
CHARLIE'S  
ANGELS...!







HAVE YOU EVER  
THOUGHT THAT  
MAYBE THAT'S  
THE REASON HE  
WON'T SHOW?

It's  
sure to be  
Hilarious.

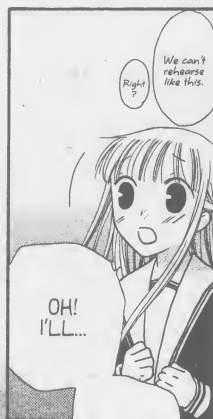


Oh,  
You're  
going  
back now?  
Thanks for  
your help.

I'll leave  
the rest  
to you.

I'M GOING  
BACK TO THE  
STUDENT  
COUNCIL.

I'LL LOOK  
FOR HIM ON  
THE WAY.



Right?

We can't  
rehearse  
like this.

OH!  
I'LL...



I'LL GO  
LOOK--

ホ  
pat



"IT'S  
DEAD  
TO ME."

"I DON'T  
WANT IT  
IF HE  
TOUCHED  
IT."

"IF HE  
TOUCHED  
IT..."



"I  
DON'T..."



"...WANT  
IT ANY  
MORE."

"...IT'S  
NOT  
MINE  
ANY  
MORE."



"...IT  
MAKES  
ME SICK."



WHAT  
IS IT  
NOW?




YOU'RE  
SULKING  
LIKE A  
MIFFED  
TODDLER.



GO  
BACK TO  
CLASS.

THEY'RE  
WAITING  
FOR YOU.



A black and white manga panel showing two characters in a hallway. One character is on the left, facing away from the viewer, wearing a dark suit with a white collar. The other character is on the right, also facing away, wearing a dark jacket. They are standing in a hallway with a tiled floor and a wall with a grid pattern.

YOU'RE  
THE ONE WHO  
BOTHERED ME,  
AFTER ALL THAT  
CRAP YOU SAID.

I'M  
JUST NOT  
INTERESTED  
IN DANCING  
AROUND ON  
SOME STUPID  
STAGE.

A close-up of a character with dark hair and a serious expression. He is wearing a dark jacket with a white collar. There are three small dots above his head, indicating a pause or a specific emotion.

I'M NOT  
SULKING.

A character with dark hair and a shocked expression, wide eyes, and an open mouth. He is wearing a dark jacket with a white collar. He is standing in a hallway with a tiled floor and a wall with a grid pattern. There are motion lines around him, suggesting he is moving quickly or reacting strongly.

IS THAT  
WHAT YOU  
WANT?

**DON'T  
TALK  
ABOUT  
HER!**

A close-up of a character with dark hair, looking down. He is wearing a dark jacket with a white collar. There are three small dots above his head, indicating a pause or a specific emotion.

IF THAT'S  
THE CASE,  
TAKE IT UP  
WITH ME.

YOUR  
GENERALLY  
ROTTEN  
ATTITUDE  
IS MAKING  
PEOPLE...

...MAKING  
HONDA-  
SAN...  
WORRY.



LITTLE  
"PRINCE  
CHARMING,"  
WITHOUT A  
CARE IN THE  
WORLD.

YOU'VE  
NEVER HAD  
TO FEEL WHAT  
IT'S LIKE TO  
GET NOTHING...



...TO WISH,  
LIKE AN IDIOT,  
FOR SOME-  
THING YOU  
CAN'T HAVE!

YOU'RE  
JUST A--

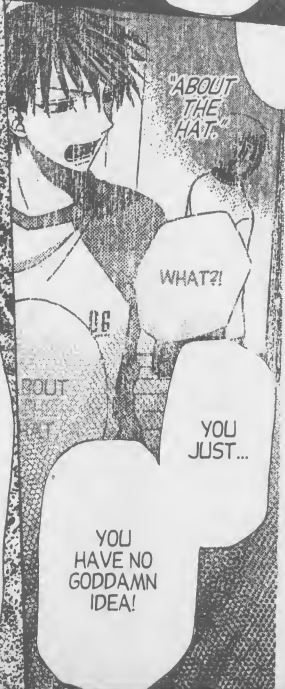
YOU HAD A  
MOM AND DAD!  
EVERYONE  
NEEDED YOU  
AND TOLD YOU  
WHAT A GREAT  
PERSON YOU  
WERE!

YOU JUST  
JUMP OVER  
PEOPLE WHO'RE  
TRYING HARDER  
THAN YOU  
EVER DID...

YOU  
COULDN'T  
POSSIBLY  
UNDERSTAND  
HOW SOME-  
ONE LIKE ME  
FEELS!



YOU  
JUST LIKE  
SCREWING  
WITH ME!



ABOUT  
THE  
HAT.

WHAT?!

YOU  
JUST...


YOU  
HAVE NO  
GODDAMN  
IDEA!



"YOU  
WANT  
HIM..."

...TO BE  
LIKE THAT,  
DON'T  
YOU?"



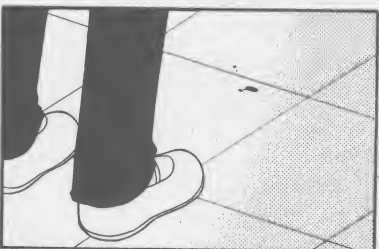
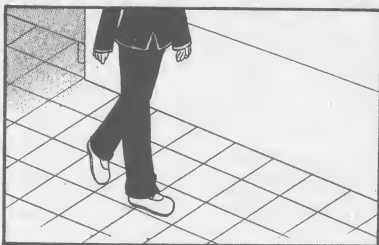


... YOU  
WOULDN'T  
KNOW WHAT  
TO DO WITH  
YOURSELF,  
WOULD  
YOU?"



"IF YOU  
DIDN'T  
HAVE  
SOMEONE  
TO HATE..."







...HELLO.

ARE YOU PREPARING FOR THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL? I THINK YOUR CLASS IS DOING A BAZAAR...

HELLO!

THAT'S RIGHT! WE ARE!

Count on the president to remember!



Wow!

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO THE WINDOW?!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

HELLO, YAMAGISHI-SAN. YOU, TOO, MACHI.



DON'T YOU THINK SO, KURAGI-SAN?

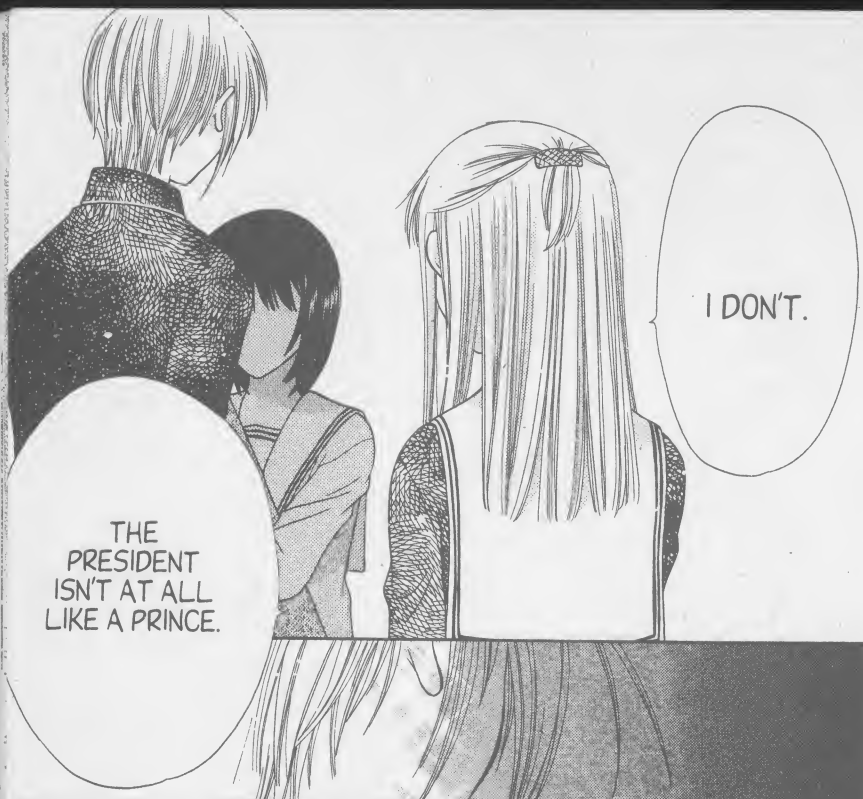
YOU'RE EXACTLY WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN I THINK OF A STORYBOOK PRINCE!



I HEARD YOUR CLASS IS DOING CINDERELLA. I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT!

THANK YOU.

STILL, SENPAI. I'M A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED THAT YOU WON'T BE PLAYING PRINCE CHARMING.





DOESN'T  
THAT SORT  
OF THING  
JUST ANNOY  
THE HECK  
OUT OF YOU?



MAYBE  
SAYING  
WEIRD  
THINGS IS  
JUST A  
CRY FOR  
ATTENTION.



KYO-KUN!

slide?

open

OH!

WE  
FINISHED  
REHEARSAL  
FOR TODAY,  
SO EVERYONE  
WENT HOME.

WHY'RE  
YOU ALONE?  
WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO EVERY-  
BODY?

HUH?

YUKI-KUN WENT  
TO LOOK FOR  
YOU, BUT SINCE  
YOU DIDN'T  
COME BACK...

Your book  
bag was  
still here.

trot  
trot  
=



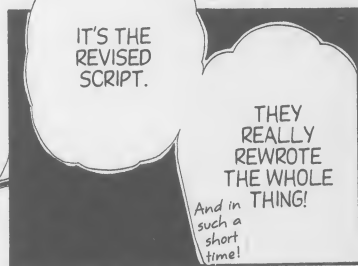
I'M SURE YOUR  
PART WILL BE  
A LOT EASIER  
FOR YOU NOW!

I REALLY,  
REALLY HOPE  
YOU'LL READ  
THROUGH IT.



YOU  
WERE  
WAIT-  
ING FOR  
ME...?

I  
WANTED  
YOU TO SEE  
THIS!



IT'S THE  
REVISED  
SCRIPT.

THEY  
REALLY  
REWROTE  
THE WHOLE  
THING!

And in  
such a  
short  
time!



THEY MADE  
MY ROLE A  
LOT EASIER,  
TOO!

BUT IN MY  
CASE, IT WAS  
MY FAULT—MY  
PERFORMANCE  
WAS SO BAD  
BEFORE.

SHE  
WAS  
ALONE.

WHAT WAS  
GOING THROUGH  
HER HEAD  
WHILE SHE  
WAITED  
FOR ME?



YOUR  
HAND IS  
HURT!

h  
h  
slide







IT'S  
NOT LIKE  
I HAVE A  
CHOICE.

...!  
GIVE  
UP.

ANYWAY.

LET'S  
GO HOME  
ALREADY.

JUST  
PROMISE  
ME ONE  
THING.

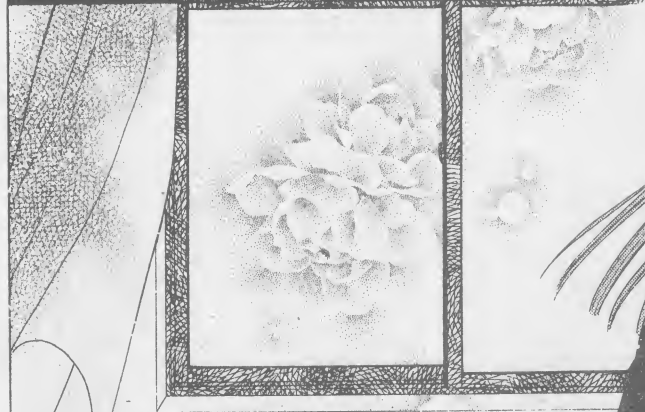
YOU  
WON'T  
LAUGH. NO  
MATTER  
WHAT,  
OKAY?



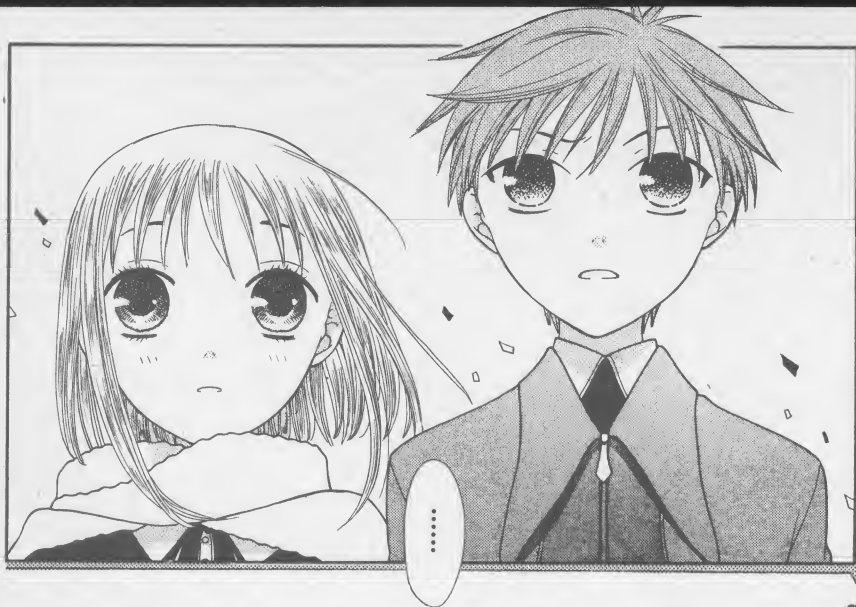
COME  
ON.



Sobu



C-  
COMING.



Kaibara Public **HIGH SCHOOL** Cultural Festival



Chapter 88







MY MONEY'S ON WEIRD, IF THAT ENTRANCE SIGN'S AN INDICATION.

I CAN'T WAIT.

ONEE-CHAN'S PLAY IS GOING TO BE SO GREAT!



Whoa, check out the cutie.

Is she foreign?

Just a wanna little won't hurt!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT.



HUH?

ANYWAY, BE CAREFUL AROUND HERE.



STUPID SCUM. GET LOST!

Hooray for the play!



THIS PLACE MAY BE CROWDED, BUT I WON'T BUMP INTO ANYONE!

DON'T WORRY, HIRO-CHAN.



HELLOOO!  
Kisa,  
Hiro!

C'mon  
over  
here!

THE  
STUDENTS  
ARE WIRED  
TODAY.  
BEWARE OF  
THEM.



B-but this  
is embar-  
rassing!

Whisper  
Room

WE'D  
BETTER  
HURRY UP--  
THE PLAY'S  
ABOUT TO  
START!



YOU,  
TOO,  
HIRO!

clench



YEEK!

HEY!



ENDURE  
IT, HIRO!...

I'm a  
cool and  
composed  
man!

IF YOU GET  
ANGRY HERE,  
YOU'LL NEVER  
BE A MAN!  
SHOW A LITTLE  
COMPOSURE!

IF YOU KEEP  
SOLILOQUIZING  
OVER THERE,  
SOMEONE'LL  
CRASH INTO YOU.

Hiro?

Continued →

Hatori didn't date anyone. Hatori didn't, anyway.

At this moment in time, he's forming a close friendship with Mayu-chan...although that doesn't mean they don't still argue from time to time.

And, obviously, Hatori's still got issues to work through.



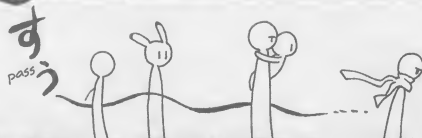
And now we have the boy often described as "a scene-calming agent":

Momiji. 🐾

Momiji's family consists of four people: Papa, Mama, his little sister Momo, and himself.

He's currently living alone (sort of). He has several servants.

To be  
← continued





...WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN,  
"SORTA"?

SORTA  
CINDERELLA!



HURRY UP!  
HURRY UP  
HURRY UP  
HURRY UP!

I SAVED US  
SEATS, BUT I  
DON'T WANNA  
MISS RECORD-  
ING ANYTHING!

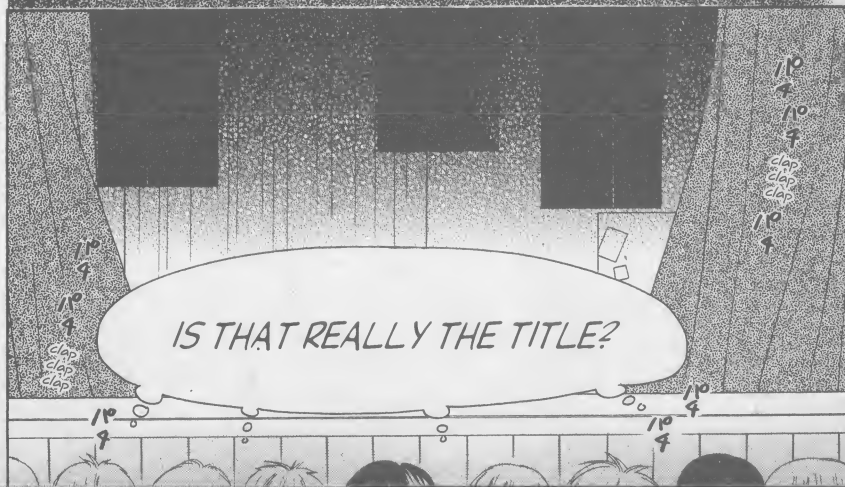
WHY BOTHER  
RECORDING IT?  
AND WHAT  
PLAY IS IT,  
ANYWAY?

HE MEANS  
SORTA  
CINDERELLA.

WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN,  
"SORTA"?!

2-D

# Sorta Cinderella



IS THAT REALLY THE TITLE?

TADA!

CINDERELLA!

BUT SINCE  
HER HEART  
WAS ALSO  
BEAUTIFUL,  
SHE LIVED  
NOBLY AND  
HUMBLY.

DUE TO VARIOUS  
CIRCUMSTANCES,  
SHE WAS REGULAR-  
LY TORMENTED BY  
HER STEPMOTHER  
AND STEPSISTER.

ONCE  
UPON A  
TIME...

...THERE  
LIVED A  
BEAUTIFUL  
YOUNG GIRL  
NAMED  
CINDERELLA.

はっ  
In the  
spotlight!



WHERE  
ARE YOU,  
CINDERELLA?!

THERE'S  
TOHTU!

ONEE-  
CHAN  
LOOKS SO  
PRETTY!

THE  
ROYAL BALL  
IS BEING HELD  
AT THE PALACE  
TONIGHT!

HAVE  
YOU FINISHED  
OUR DRESSES,  
CINDERELLA?!





YOU'D BETTER  
HAVE OUR  
DRESSES,  
IF YOU'RE  
LOUNGING  
AROUND LIKE  
THAT!

HERE  
I AM.

170  
spotlight

HOW  
DARE YOU  
SIT THERE  
DRINKING  
TEA?!

Oh...  
MOTHER

BUT  
IF YOU'RE  
WILLING TO BE A  
LAUGHINGSTOCK,  
THEN I ACCEPT  
THE JOB.

YOU CAN'T  
POSSIBLY  
EXPECT AN  
AMATEUR  
TO MAKE A  
DECENT  
DRESS.

I HAVE  
TO ADVANCE  
THE STORY,  
YOU LITTLE  
BRAT! BUT  
DON'T YOU  
DARE EMBAR-  
RASS ME!

THAT'S AN...  
INTERESTING  
CINDERELLA.

NO MORE  
FRIVOLITIES  
FOR YOU!

MORE  
IMPORTANTLY,  
ONEE-SAMA...  
WOULD YOU  
LIKE SOME  
TEA?

May  
I?



IF YOU WANT  
YOUR PRECIOUS  
SISTER BACK,  
THEN HURRY  
AND FINISH THE  
DRESSES!

THE  
STEPMOTHER  
WAS EAGER  
TO MARRY HER  
DAUGHTER INTO  
THE ROYAL FAMI-  
LY, IN THE HOPES  
OF ATTAINING A  
LIFE OF EASE AND  
COMFORT.

A BALL  
WAS TO  
BE HELD  
AT THE  
PALACE  
THAT  
NIGHT.

RUMOR  
HAD IT THAT  
PRINCE  
CHARMING  
WAS USING  
THE BALL TO  
FIND A BRIDE.

OH  
DEAR!

ONEE-  
SAMA...

I'LL NEED  
A PLAN TO  
STORM THE  
PALACE.

...OH. BUT I  
HAVE THOSE  
DRESSES TO  
MAKE.

HM.

DON'T  
WORRY.

I should  
drink  
some tea  
and calm  
down!

CINDERELLA  
SEEMED  
DEEPLY IN  
LOVE WITH A  
PRINCE SHE  
HAD NEVER  
MET.

I WON'T  
FORGIVE  
THIS, LITTLE  
PRINCE.

HOW  
TERRIBLE.  
MY SISTER IS  
TAKEN AWAY  
BECAUSE SOME  
PRINCE WANTED  
A BALL...



flash  
ハッ  
ハッ

flash  
ハッ  
ハッ

flash  
ハッ  
ハッ

flash  
ハッ  
ハッ

flash  
ハッ  
ハッ

CINDER--

EVERY-  
THING  
WILL  
BE ALL  
RIGHT.

HE'S AN  
ANGEL!

Kyaaaaah!

Please  
be  
quiet!  
Easy on  
the flash  
photo-  
graphy!

IF YOU  
DON'T MIND  
MY SAYING,  
THAT WAS A  
LACKLUSTER  
INTRODUCTION.

My eyes...  
the flashes...

I'M...  
ER...

...YOUR  
FAIRY...  
GUARDIAN.



I'M AFRAID  
THAT'S A  
CRIME. PLEASE  
WISH FOR  
SOMETHING  
SOFTER, MORE  
PURE.

BURN THE  
PALACE  
DOWN.

GENTLE  
CINDERELLA,  
FOR SOMEONE  
AS KIND AS YOU,  
I WILL GRANT  
WHATEVER YOU  
WISH FOR THE  
REST OF THIS  
EVENING.

ALLOW  
ME A  
MOMENT.  
SORRY.



THAT  
SOUNDS  
LOVELY.

Pure...



HRM...  
THAT'S MY  
MOTHER.

CINDER-  
ELLA!

I'M GOING  
TO COME  
IN HERE  
ASSUMING  
YOU'VE FIN-  
ISHED THE  
DRESSES!

THAT'S  
NOT WHAT  
I MEANT.

I WISH FOR  
DELICIOUS  
YAKINIKU.



DID YOU  
REALLY  
MAKE  
THESE?!

TH-  
THEY'RE  
ACTUALLY  
FINISHED!

I  
GUESS.

But  
when?...



CINDERELLA-  
SAN!

ABOUT  
THAT...



...WHA?



B-BUT  
WHAT ABOUT  
CINDERELLA-  
SAN?

WELL,  
WHATEVER.  
WE'RE  
CHANGING  
INTO THESE  
AND GOING  
OUT!

かっ  
head-  
lock

SHE'LL  
WATCH  
THE HOUSE  
WHILE  
WE'RE  
AWAY!



I'M  
PLEASED  
THAT YOU  
LIKE MY  
HANDMADE  
DRESSES SO  
MUCH.

Heh  
heh.

THESE  
DRESSES ARE  
BEAUTIFUL!  
YOU'RE SUCH  
A SKILLED  
SEAMSTRESS!

CINDERELLA'S  
A LIAR!

カッカッ SHOCK



AND  
NOW IT'S  
YOUR TURN,  
CINDERELLA.

MAKE  
YOUR  
WISH.



ぱ  
お  
spotlight



GOOD  
WORK,  
FAIRY  
GUARDIAN.

I  
WOULDN'T  
DARE  
MENTION  
IT.



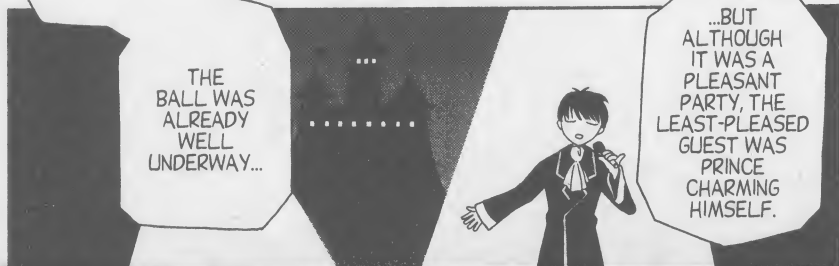
I'll just go  
get that  
ready.

clap  
clap

AND SO,  
LARGELY DECIDED  
ON BY THE FAIRY  
GUARDIAN, CINDER-  
ELLA FOUND HER  
CHANCE TO GO TO  
THE ROYAL BALL.

YOU SHALL  
GO TO THE  
BALL IN A  
PUMPKIN  
CARRIAGE!

YAKINI--



THE  
BALL WAS  
ALREADY  
WELL  
UNDERWAY...

...BUT  
ALTHOUGH  
IT WAS A  
PLEASANT  
PARTY, THE  
LEAST-PLEASED  
GUEST WAS  
PRINCE  
CHARMING  
HIMSELF.

WHAT ARE YOU  
BROODING ABOUT,  
SUNSHINE? WE  
THREW THIS GIANT  
THING FOR YOU.

NOW GO  
PICK A  
LADY.

There are  
plenty of  
'em here.

SHUT UP,  
WILL YOU?  
I ALREADY  
SAID I'M NOT  
INTERESTED.



What  
was  
that?  
I'M WORRIED  
ABOUT YOU,  
YOU STUPID  
LUG, AND THIS  
IS MY THANKS?  
GO BUY YOUR-  
SELF SOME  
COURTESY!

TAKE  
A TRIP  
TO THE  
STORE AND  
BUY YOUR-  
SELF SOME  
DIGNITY!

DESPITE  
THE GENTLE  
PERSUASION OF  
HIS FELLOW  
PRINCE, PRINCE  
CHARMING  
COULD NOT BE  
CONVINCED TO DANCE.

That  
was...  
some-  
thing  
yikes.

That  
was...  
yikes.

Nya ha ha!

YOU'RE  
SHAMELESS,  
YOU INFURIATING  
SACK OF SKIN!

NO  
WONDER  
YOU'RE A  
VIRGIN.

H  
E  
Y  
!





OH...

I-I  
SEE.

I BEG  
YOUR  
PARDON.



PRINCE  
CHARMING?  
WOULD  
YOU DANCE  
WITH--

NO!

THEN  
MIGHT  
YOU BE  
BOTHERED  
TO SHARE  
A DANCE  
WITH--

--ME?  
IGNORE  
HER.

I SAID  
NO! FIND  
SOMEBODY  
ELSE!



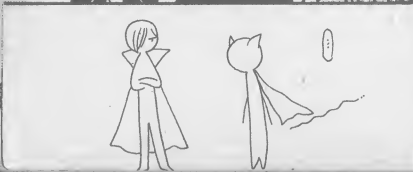
PRIN--

I'M NOT  
DANCING,  
DAMMIT!



REFUSED  
TO DANCE  
WITH THE  
STEPSISTER...


...



HE ALSO,  
OF COURSE,  
REFUSED  
TO DANCE  
WITH THE  
STEPSISTER.

WAI--





WHILE THE  
CHEER OF  
HIS GUESTS  
FILLED THE  
PALACE DANCE  
HALL, PRINCE  
CHARMING  
FELL DEEPER  
INTO DESPAIR.

STOP  
LOOKING  
DEPRESSED  
ONSTAGE.

WHY AM  
I DOING  
THIS...?



Wow!  
THAT  
WOMAN  
IS SO  
BEAUTIFUL!

BLACK!

CINDERELLA'S  
WEARING  
BLACK!



HERE  
WE  
ARE.

THE  
BALL.



HEY...  
CHECK OUT  
THAT PIECE  
OF TART.

NO.

ASK  
HER TO  
DANCE.

WATCHING  
FOR AN OP-  
PORTUNITY,  
CINDERELLA  
ARRIVED.



すし  
やき  
ぬき

OH,  
MY.

THEY  
HAVE  
YAKINIKU.



AFTER  
FALLING  
INSTANTLY IN  
LOVE WITH  
CINDERELLA'S  
BEAUTY, PRINCE  
CHARMING  
ASKED THE FAIR  
MAIDEN TO  
DANCE.

NO  
WAY!

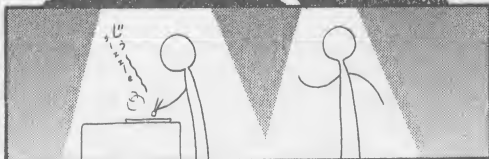
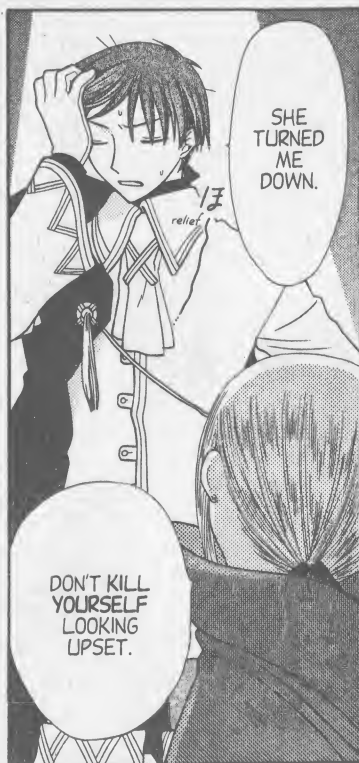
YES WAY,  
AS PER THE  
NARRATOR.

Now hurry  
and go.



GET  
OVER  
HERE...

...AND  
DANCE  
WITH  
ME!



W-  
WOULD  
YOU...  
like...to  
talk...to  
me?

...SIGH.  
WHAT  
IS IT?

DO  
YOU HAVE  
BUSINESS  
WITH ME?

TALK?

sizzle

...VERY  
WELL.

DID  
YOU JUST  
COME HERE  
FOR THE  
MEAT?

I'M  
VERY  
BUSY  
RIGHT  
NOW.

On bottle: I live for meat.

OH.

KONG  
ゴーン!!

HOW VERY  
TERRIBLE.  
I'M AFRAID  
I MUST BE  
GOING.

YES!

I'M  
BEGGING  
YOU.

CHOOSE AN  
EASIER TOPIC OF  
CONVERSATION.

YOUR AURA IS  
SO PLEASANT  
TONIGHT THAT  
IT MAKES MY  
BRAIN THROB.



NOW YOU  
CAN'T SAY I  
NEVER GAVE  
IT TO YOU.

TUP

UH...  
RIGHT. NO  
OFFENSE...

...BUT YOU  
HAVE NO  
EMOTIONS.



SHE LEFT  
A SINGLE  
GLASS SLIP-  
PER IN HER  
DELICATE  
WAKE.

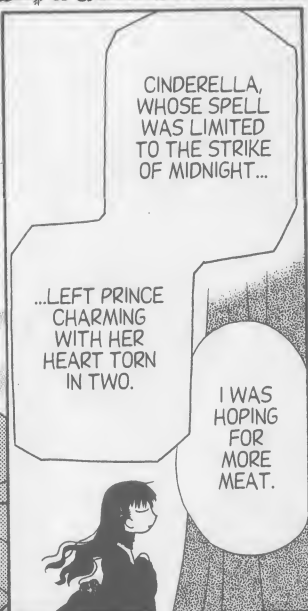
USE  
THIS TO  
GO FIND  
HER.

HUH?  
OH, WHAT-  
EVER.



I  
WOULDN'T  
CARE  
LE--

WHAP!



CINDERELLA,  
WHOSE SPELL  
WAS LIMITED  
TO THE STRIKE  
OF MIDNIGHT...


...LEFT PRINCE  
CHARMING  
WITH HER  
HEART TORN  
IN TWO.

I WAS  
HOPING  
FOR  
MORE  
MEAT.




ALL  
THOSE  
STAR-  
CROSSED  
LOVERS...

...WHO JUST  
WANNA  
SEE EACH  
OTHER...




THINK OF  
ALL THE  
STAR-CROSSED  
LOVERS WHO  
WOULD KILL  
FOR THINGS  
THIS EASY!



THIS IS A  
GIFT, A GIFT,  
THAT WILL  
LEAD YOU  
BACK TO HER!  
DON'T WASTE  
GIFTS!

And  
you call  
yourself  
a man!

OW.



...

HE  
FINALLY  
REALIZED  
HIS TRUE,  
DEEPEST  
FEELINGS.

THOUGH HIS  
FELLOW  
PRINCE WAS  
BIASED, PRINCE  
CHARMING  
TOOK THE  
ADVICE.



COME  
SEE ME,  
DAMMIT!

...SEE  
WHO?



HE TRIED TO  
FIT THE GLASS  
SLIPPER ON  
EVERY GIRL  
IN TOWN...

...DECIDING  
THAT THE ONE  
WHO FIT THE  
SHOE WAS  
HIS BELOVED  
CINDERELLA.

"I WISH I  
COULD SEE  
HER," HE  
THOUGHT  
SADLY.

I  
NEVER ONCE  
WANTED TO  
SEE HER!

NOT  
EVEN A  
MOUSE.

Oh  
ho  
ho!

FINE--LET'S  
GET THE  
HELL OUT  
OF HERE.

OH!

P-PLEASE  
WAIT! YOU  
HAVEN'T  
YET SEEN  
CINDERELLA-  
SAN...

ARE  
THERE ANY  
OTHER YOUNG  
LADIES IN  
THIS HOUSE?

HE AT  
LAST CAME TO  
THE HOME OF  
CINDERELLA  
AND HER  
FAMILY.

I'M  
AFRAID  
THAT'S  
NOT MY  
SLIPPER.







THAT WAS  
UNNECESSARY  
INFORMATION.

JUST  
A MINUTE,  
PRINCE  
CHARMING!  
THAT INFOR-  
MATION WAS  
VERY NECES-  
SARY!

I WILL  
NEVER  
FORGIVE...

...HE WHO  
HARMS  
ONEE-SAMA.

CINDERELLA-  
SAN!

CALM THIS  
VIOLENCE.

Was  
it?  
But,  
I er...

squeeze

step

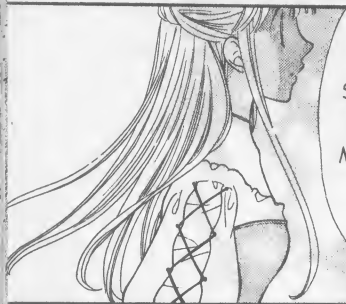
THAT'S AN  
ARROGANT  
CINDERELLA.

AND SHE'S  
EATING SOME-  
THING AGAIN.

I WAS  
EXPECTING  
YOU, PRINCE.

THAT  
SLIPPER IS  
CERTAINLY THE  
ONE I LEFT YOU...  
NOW GIVE IT  
BACK TO ME.





...AND  
STOPPING  
ONLY AT  
THE MO-  
MENT YOU  
DIE?

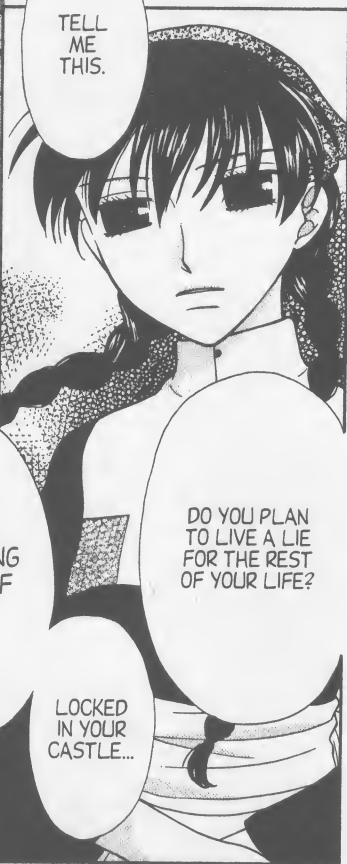


SO  
WHAT IF  
I DO?

YOU CAN'T  
TELL ME  
THAT  
WOULD  
BOTHER  
ANYONE.



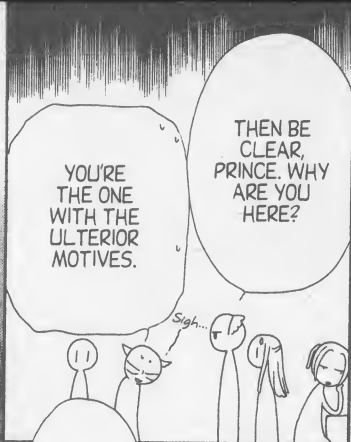
...DECEIVING  
YOURSELF  
DAILY...



TELL  
ME  
THIS.

DO YOU PLAN  
TO LIVE A LIE  
FOR THE REST  
OF YOUR LIFE?

LOCKED  
IN YOUR  
CASTLE...



YOU'RE  
THE ONE  
WITH THE  
ULTERIOR  
MOTIVES.

THEN BE  
CLEAR,  
PRINCE. WHY  
ARE YOU  
HERE?

Sigh...



WHAT  
HAPPENS  
TO ME IS  
MY OWN--

BUT THAT  
WOULD  
MAKE ME...

WAIT!

...VERY...

...UM...

I  
INTERRUPTED  
YOU, SORRY!  
PLEASE GO  
ON WITH THE  
STORY!

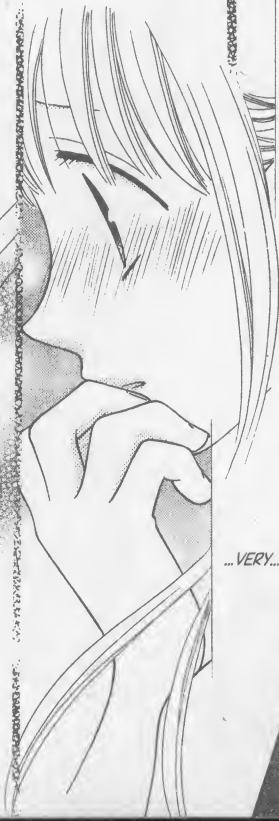
Eek!!  
I-I'M SORRY.  
NEVER MIND  
WHAT I JUST  
SAID!

I'm  
really,  
really  
sorry!





...ABOUT  
THAT  
STORY.



"BUT  
THAT  
WOULD  
MAKE..."

...ME...



...VERY...?"

FAAAYK

AH...  
MY LOYAL  
SERVANT HAS  
ARRIVED.

ALTHOUGH  
I'M NOT YOUR  
SERVANT, I  
REALIZE THAT  
YOU MARRYING  
THE PRINCE  
WOULD ONLY  
END IN  
HEARTBREAK.

KYAAAH!

GYAH!

ズ  
ン  
PUNCH

I COULDN'T  
HELP BUT  
OVERHEAR  
YOU.

Sorry for  
interrupting,  
but we have  
to wrap up.

SHE'LL  
NEVER LET  
THAT DIE.

I WANT TO  
MANAGE A  
YAKINIKU SHOP  
WITH ONEE-  
SAMA.

MEAT...

SO I WILL  
ASK ONE  
MORE TIME.

WHAT IS IT  
YOU TRULY  
WISH FOR?



I ONLY  
HOPE IT  
COMES TRUE  
BY YOUR  
OWN TWO  
HANDS.

I THOUGHT  
YOU WERE  
GRANTING  
THE WISH.

IN THAT  
CASE--PRINCE  
CHARMING.  
SUPPORT  
THEM IN  
THEIR  
BUSINESS.

PRINCE  
CHARM-  
ING...



...I WON'T  
ASK WHAT  
YOU WISH  
FOR.



...WHA?

WHAT  
Wonderful  
JUDgment!



ooooo...

But...

GRAH!







## Chapter 89





I'M  
KAZUMA  
SOHMA.  
THANK YOU  
FOR HELPING  
KYO.

AH-I  
HAVEN'T  
INTRODUCED  
MYSELF  
YET.

MY  
NAME IS  
SAKI HANA-  
JIMA. IT'S A  
PLEASURE  
TO MEET  
YOU.

SH--

Shishou-  
san is  
Hana-  
chan's  
type,  
isn't  
he?

You're  
gettin'  
a new  
mommy!

Check  
it out,  
Kyon!

If I were  
to marry,  
I'd choose  
a man  
like that.

...Uh-oh.



I THINK MY  
PERFORMANCE  
TODAY WAS  
A SUCCESS  
BECAUSE  
HE PLAYED  
OPPOSITE  
ME.

KYO-KUN...  
THANK  
YOU VERY  
MUCH.



SHISHOU!  
WHY'RE YOU...  
HOW...!

YES.  
GOOD  
WORK.

HELLO,  
KYO. GOOD  
WORK IN  
THE PLAY.



YOU  
HAVE A  
LOVELY  
CLASS-  
MATE.

SH-  
SHISHOU!



GRAB



IF FATE  
ALLOWS IT,  
I'LL SEE YOU  
AGAIN.

WELL,  
THEN--I'M  
GOING TO  
CHANGE.

YES...  
AGAIN.

がし  
shake  
がし  
shake

がし  
shake

がし



AND  
YOU'RE A  
BRAINLESS  
FATHER  
FIGURE!

WHAT'S  
THIS ALL OF  
A SUDDEN?  
MY DEAR KYO,  
YOU'RE SUCH  
A CHILD.

Ah  
ha  
ha

Stop  
looking so  
happy!

がし  
ruffle



PLEASE!



PLEASE  
DON'T GET  
MARRIED!

Ko-baka

Oya-baka

Continued →

Momiji's Papa lives "outside," but he still comes to see his son every once in a while.

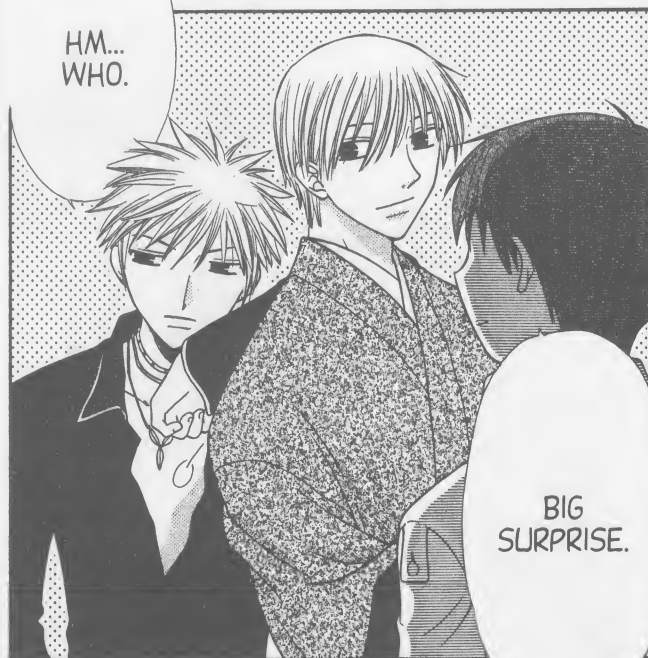
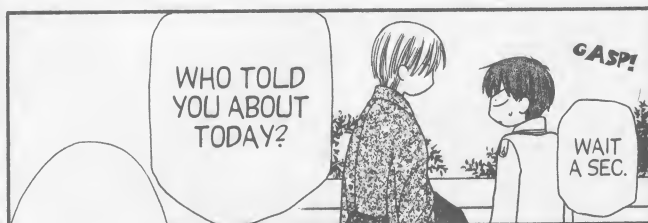
Since the incident with his Mama, Momitchi and Hatori have grown closer; they sympathize with each other, and worry about the other's feelings.

Unlike the other members of the Zodiac, Momiji went to international elementary and middle schools. He's also the member of the Zodiac most comfortable with his spirit possession.

Now matter how much he clings to Tohru, he still never gets in trouble...so I guess, in a way, he's the most successful of the boys.

I remember talking with my editor about how it would've been nice if I could have said that Momiji's song in Chapter 72 was "For Fruits Basket."

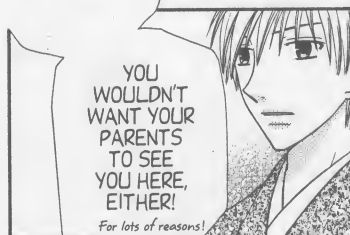
I hope that Ritsuko Okazaki-san may be happy in the next world.





I THOUGHT  
SHIHAN  
WOULD BE  
HAPPY.

IT'S  
EMBAR-  
RASSING!



YOU  
WOULDN'T  
WANT YOUR  
PARENTS  
TO SEE  
YOU HERE,  
EITHER!

*For lots of reasons!*



THANK  
YOU.

MOMIJI  
GOT IT ON  
TAPE. WE'LL  
GIVE YOU A  
COPY.

Ow.

I CAN NEVER  
TELL IF YOU'RE  
TRYING TO PICK  
A FIGHT WITH  
ME OR NOT.



LET  
HIM GO,  
KYO.

HUH?

I'M  
GOING  
HOME.

I  
HAD TO  
SNEAK  
AWAY  
TO COME  
HERE.

...AH.

BUT  
BEFORE  
I GO...







MAKE  
ME!!



UH...



"BUT  
THAT  
WOULD



I'D LIKE  
TO SAY  
HELLO TO  
TOHRU-SAN.

DO YOU  
KNOW  
WHERE  
I COULD  
FIND HER?



...

I SEE.



I-I  
DUNNO.

IT'S  
NOT  
LIKE...

...I KEEP  
TABS ON  
WHERE SHE  
IS ALL THE  
TIME.



THERE'S  
NO FRIGGIN'  
WAY.

SHE  
DOESN'T  
REALLY...

SHE  
COULDN'T  
REALLY  
MEAN...



I  
SUPPOSE I'LL  
HAVE TO WAIT  
FOR ANOTHER  
DAY, THEN.

GOODBYE.



HUH?  
BUT I...

HOLD ON  
A SEC AND  
I'LL WALK  
YOU TO THE  
GATE.

*Just lemme  
go change!*



NO  
WAY.



Yeek!

ACHOO!

BY THE WAY, UO-CHAN--YOU MADE SUCH A WONDERFUL PRINCE!

Y'THINK SO?

You were cute yourself.

sniff  
AH, IT'S JUST ALLERGIES. I WAS ITCHING THROUGH THE WHOLE DAMN PLAY.

WH-WH-WHAT'S WRONG?! ARE YOU SICK?! IS IT A COLD?!

Pollen isn't only a springtime thing, y'know.

COME SEE ME, DAMMIT!



"I HAVE NO INTENTION OF SEEING HER."

YEAH?

"I'VE HAD ENOUGH."



Nnn.

I GUESS I'LL GO WATCH THE NEXT PLAY.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS, TOHRU?

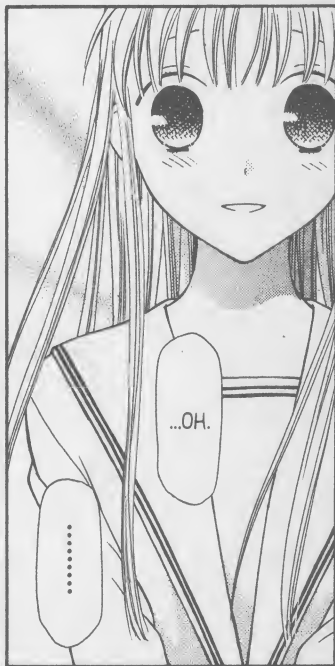
UM,  
LIO-CHAN  
?



A-ANYWAY! I WAS HOPING TO MEET UP WITH MOMIJI-KUN AND THE OTHERS.

IT SURE IS. I CAN'T WAIT!

THE PLAY YOU'RE GOING TO SEE-IS IT MITO KOLIMON?



...OH.

LIO-CHAN...

See you later!



YEEK!

That voice!

ONEE-CHAN!...



I GUESS SHE REALLY DOES...

...STILL THINK OF KURENO-SAN.

ONEE-CHAN!



THE PLAY WAS REALLY FUN!

You were great, TOHRU!

KISA-SAN!



I  
RECORDED  
THE WHOLE  
THING.

WE CAN  
ALL WATCH  
IT AGAIN  
LATER!



YOU WERE  
REALLY  
PRETTY,  
ONEE-CHAN.

EVEN  
KISA-SAN  
AND HIRO-SAN  
CAME...OH, I'M  
SO HAPPY!

I'M SO  
GLAD YOU  
LIKED IT!



YOU  
WANT ME  
TO GIVE ONE  
TO KURENO,  
RIGHT?



NOPE! AND  
I CAN PUT  
IT ON DVD!

DO YOU  
NEED THAT  
MACHINE TO  
WATCH THE  
TAPE?

M-  
Momiji-  
kun.

Mage costume

I-I'M NOT SURE  
WHAT THAT MEANS,  
BUT WHEN YOU'RE  
FINISHED WITH THE  
TAPE, COULD YOU  
MAYBE SEND A...  
MAYBE SEND A--

sure!



I'm  
right?!  
I really  
guessed  
right?!  
COOL!

It's like  
a famous  
detective  
story!

HOW DID  
YOU KNOW  
THAT?!

EEEEEEK!

EH?



...I REALIZED  
I SHOULD BE  
THE ONE TO  
TAKE HIM A  
COPY.

IT MAY  
TAKE ME A  
WHILE, BUT  
MY CHANCES OF  
GETTING TO HIM  
ARE A LOT  
BETTER.



THE  
killer is  
amongst  
us!

HE'S  
MIXING  
DETECTIVE  
MANGA  
REFERENCES.

AND  
SUBTLY.



AND WHEN  
I THOUGHT  
ABOUT YOU,  
TOHRU...



JUST KIDDING!  
I FIGURED IT  
OUT WHEN I  
HEARD ARISA  
ON STAGE.

THAT  
THING  
SHE  
SHOUTED,  
Y'KNOW?





...MOMIJI.

Yeah?

LEAVE  
IT TO  
ME!



Of  
course!

THEN  
IF NOBODY  
MINDS, MAY I  
SHOW THESE  
TWO AROUND?

KISA.



Oh  
no!

IT'S  
ALMOST  
OUR SHIFT.

I'M SORRY;  
WE HAVE TO  
GO BACK TO  
OUR CLASS!



YOU,  
TOO,  
HIRO.

HUH?

YOU'RE  
CUTE, SO BE  
CAREFUL.



Hey!

WHAT'S  
THAT  
SUPPOSED  
TO MEAN?!



BE  
CAREFUL  
FOR HER.

I WILL  
DO MY  
VERY  
BEST!



BUT I'M  
STARTING  
TO THINK...



...THAT  
KINDNESS  
IS WHAT  
MADE RIN  
SO SAD.



EVEN IF  
WE DON'T  
NEED IT.



YOU REALLY  
ARE NICE TO  
EVERYBODY.

CRIPES,  
HARU-NII.



I SWORE  
I'D NEVER  
DO THAT  
AGAAAIN!

I DID  
IT AGAIN!  
AGAIN! I GOT  
ANNOYED AND  
TOOK IT OUT  
ON HIM!

GOD, I'M  
SUCH AN  
IDIOT!

HEY.

ACK!



THAT'S  
RIGHT--I WASN'T  
SUPPOSED TO  
KNOW THEY  
WERE GOING  
OUT! WHAT'S  
WRONG WITH  
ME?!

WAIT.



HIRO.

DON'T  
TELL  
ME...



WHY DID  
YOU JUST  
BRING UP  
RIN?

HIRO...

ACK!  
GACK!







"IF YOU'RE OUT PATROLLING, PLEASE DRAG OUR DELINQUENTS BACK HERE!"

Must be all the stress.

Why are you so angry?  
Nao-chan

NAO'S IN AN EVEN WORSE MOOD THAN USUAL TODAY.

walk walk



WOULD YOU MIND SHUTTING YOUR MOUTH FOR THIRTY FREAKING SECONDS?!

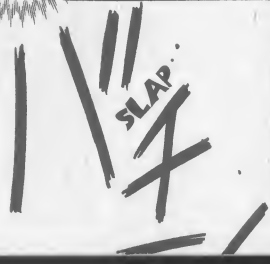
I'm trying to make a report!

Kimi would like to be taken out to tea later.

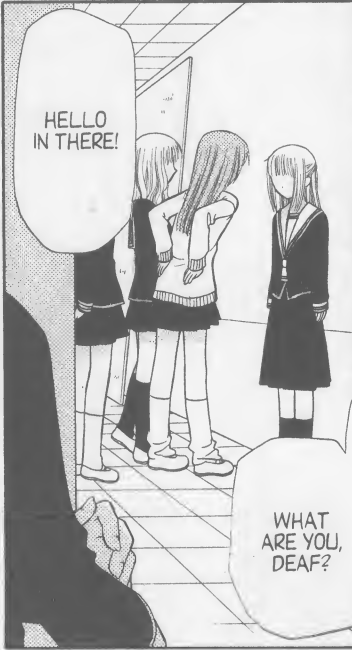
I'm sure if I can't, someone else will invite you, Kimi.



MA...

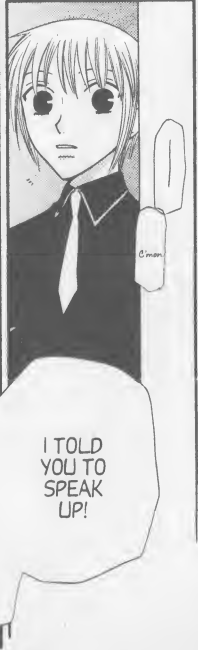


SLAP



HELLO IN THERE!

WHAT ARE YOU, DEAF?



I TOLD YOU TO SPEAK UP!







ANYWAY. IF  
SOMEONE  
TALKS TRASH,  
YOU CAN JUST  
TRASH THEM  
BACK.

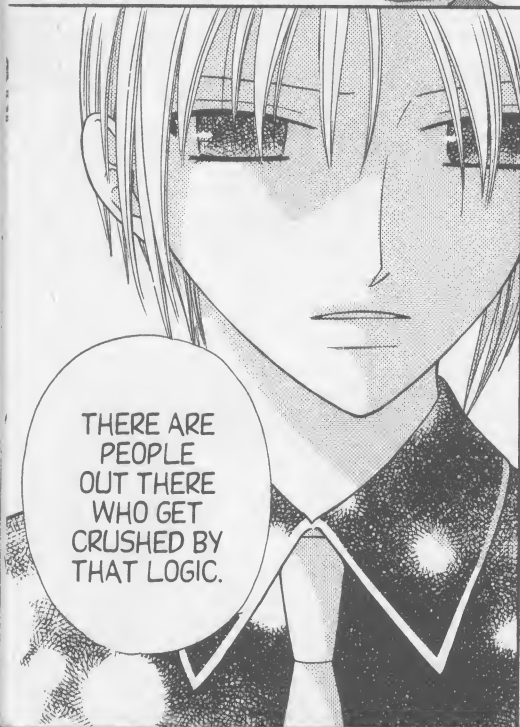


CLAMMING UP  
IN A CORNER  
MAKES THE  
THING HALF  
YOUR FAULT.

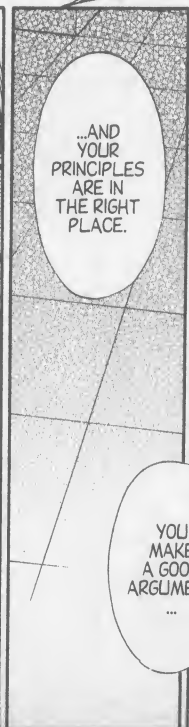


IF YOU'RE NOT  
PLANNING TO BE  
NICE TO OR TO  
COMFORT A GIRL  
ALL THE TIME...

...IT'D BE A LOT  
MORE POLITE  
TO LEAVE HER  
ALONE COM-  
PLETELY.



THERE ARE  
PEOPLE  
OUT THERE  
WHO GET  
CRUSHED BY  
THAT LOGIC.



...AND  
YOUR  
PRINCIPLES  
ARE IN  
THE RIGHT  
PLACE.



...FINE.

YOU'RE  
RIGHT.

YOU  
MAKE  
A GOOD  
ARGUMENT  
...



GOOD  
CALL  
THERE.

Oh.

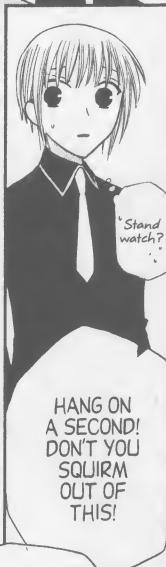
...THIS  
ISN'T THE  
TIME FOR  
A SOCIAL  
DEBATE.



STILL...



YOU SAID  
YUKI ISN'T A  
PRINCE!



"Stand  
watch?"

HANG ON  
A SECOND!  
DON'T YOU  
SQUIRM  
OUT OF  
THIS!

WE  
HEARD  
YOU,  
FREAK.



I GUESS  
I'D BETTER  
COME UP  
WITH A  
PLAN, HUH?

YUN-YUN,  
YOU STAND  
WATCH.

Excuse  
me?



By the  
way.

IF THEY  
START  
HITTING EACH  
OTHER, JUMP  
ON IN THERE  
AND BREAK  
IT UP.



YOU'RE  
BEING  
TOTALLY  
SELFISH;  
APOLOGIZE!



IT'S  
A BIG  
PROBLEM!



IS  
THAT A  
PROB-  
LEM?



THE  
RESIDENT  
ISN'T AT  
ALL LIKE  
A PRINCE.



THAT'S  
NOT AN  
APOLOGY!



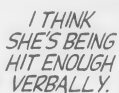
I'M  
SORRY.



THIS  
GIRL IS SO  
WEIRD!



YOU  
KNOW  
HER  
DESTRUC-  
TION  
THING?



I THINK  
SHE'S BEING  
HIT ENOUGH  
VERBALLY.



-YEAH-SHE  
COMPLETELY  
TRASHED  
THE STUDENT  
COUNCIL ROOM  
EARLIER.



WHAT,  
DO YOU  
LIKE  
YUKI?



You're  
probably  
just  
jealous.



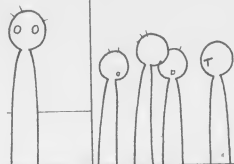
IT'S  
HOW I SEE  
THINGS.



WELL....  
YES.

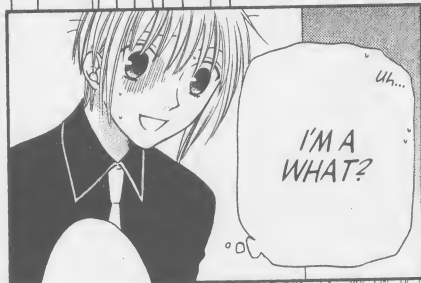


I SAID  
THAT.

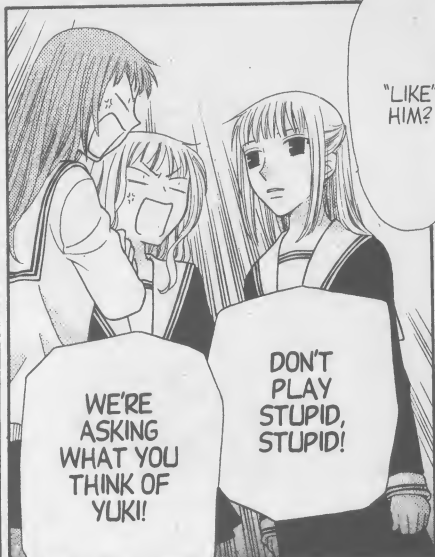


...HE'S A  
NATURAL.

MM.



UH...  
I'M A  
WHAT?



"LIKE"  
HIM?

WE'RE  
ASKING  
WHAT YOU  
THINK OF  
YUKI!

DON'T  
PLAY  
STUPID,  
STUPID!

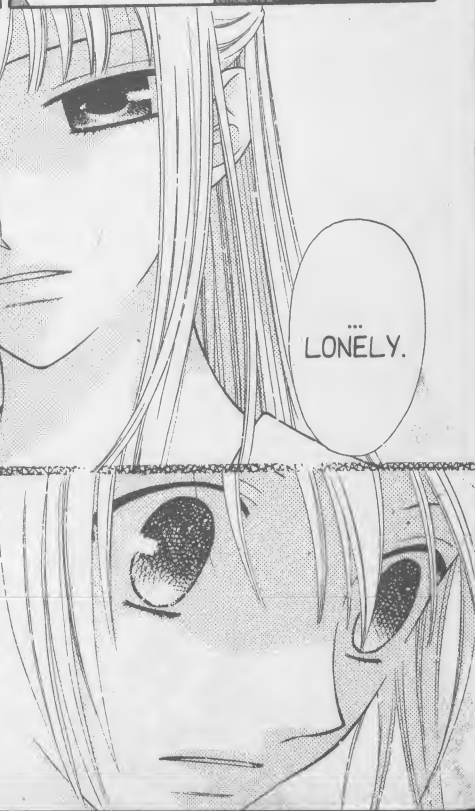
YES.

AND HE  
MAKES  
THINGS...

...  
LONELY.

AND HE'S  
KNOWN AS  
"PRINCE  
CHARMING."

HE'S ALWAYS  
SURROUNDED  
BY PEOPLE.

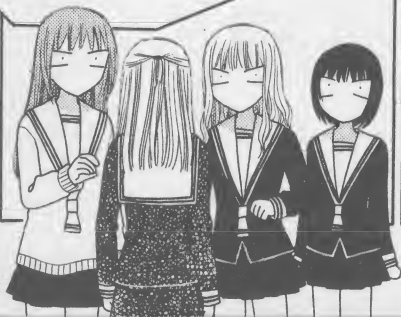




BUT HE  
STILL SEEMS  
LONELY AND  
SAD TO ME.

STARTING AT  
THREE O'CLOCK  
TODAY, THERE WILL  
BE A COMMEMORATIVE  
PHOTO SHOOT  
WITH THE ASB  
PRESIDENT IN FRONT  
OF THE STUDENT  
COUNCIL ROOM.

WOULD YOU LIKE A  
PHOTO WITH THE  
PRESIDENT TO COM-  
MEMORATE TODAY?  
WE HOPE FOR AS  
MANY PEOPLE AS IS  
HUMANLY POSSIBLE  
TO PARTICIPATE.



WHA...

HEY!

DON'T YOU  
DARE TALK  
LIKE YOU  
KNOW  
EVERYTHING!



!!



AND  
STOP ACTING  
LIKE YOU'RE  
SMARTER  
THAN  
EVERYONE--

I never  
Heard  
anything  
about that!

ALL  
RIGHT-  
IE.

THAT BROADCASTING CLUB SURE IS A HELP IN A PINCH.

I'm  
workin' it  
today.

WHAT A  
WONDERFUL  
PLAN.

**RASH**

PICTURES  
WILL BE  
TAKEN IN  
ORDER OF  
ARRIVAL.

WHAT  
TIME IS  
IT NOW?!

YIKES! WE  
HAVE TO  
HURRY!

Motoko  
and the  
others will  
get there  
before us!

Ah  
ha  
ha!

DO  
IT FOR  
MACHI!

☆

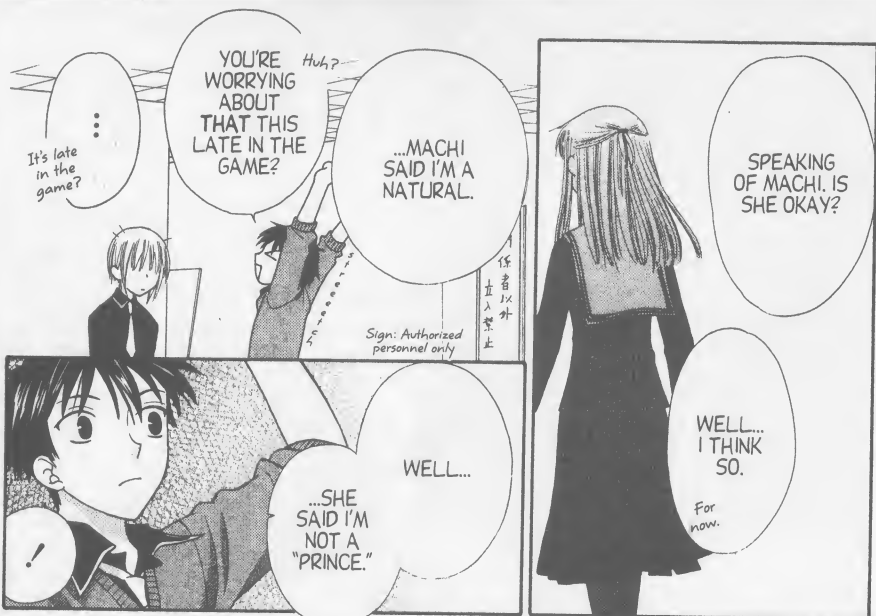
...BUT NOW  
WE HAVE  
TO HAVE  
A PHOTO  
SHOOT.

Forget  
her--  
let's go

GRRRRR

I KNOW,  
RIGHT? WE  
GOT RID OF  
THEM ALL  
AT ONCE.

NOT  
BAD, IF I  
DO SAY SO  
MYSELF.









ER...

HMM.

...



...



Hi!

KYO-KUN!  
GOOD WORK  
TODAY!

...WHAT  
ARE YOU  
CARRYING?

KISA-SAN  
AND HIRO-SAN  
ARE HERE--  
I'M BRINGING  
THEM SOME  
FOOD.  
Because  
it's so  
crowded  
and dan-  
gerous!

SHISHOU  
WAS HERE,  
BY THE  
WAY.

Gimme  
those.

Haru told  
him about  
it. He al-  
ready left,  
though.

Shishou-  
san?! He  
came to see  
you?!

What's  
his name?

NO  
WAY.

Um...  
THIS IS  
FUN, ISN'T  
IT? WHAT  
A LOVELY  
CULTURAL  
FESTIVAL!

I GUESS.  
I, UH...  
ALREADY  
BLEW  
OFF SOME  
STEAM.

ARE YOU  
ENJOYING  
YOURSELF,  
KYO-KUN?



IF I  
EVER...



...  
THOUGHT  
THAT  
WAY  
...

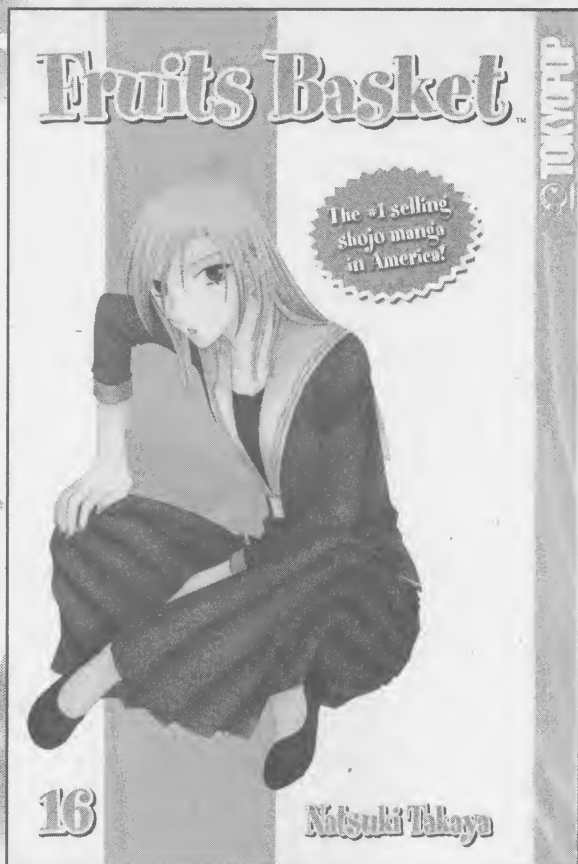


...I COULD  
NEVER  
FORGIVE  
MYSELF.



To Be Continued in Volume 16...

Next time in...



## The Curse Knows No Bounds...

The world's best shojo manga opens a new chapter in the Sohma family's story. Tragedy continues to smother the Sohmas—and it seems to be spreading to those souls unlucky enough to be connected to this cursed family. It seems that Kyo met Tohru's mother in the past. His memory involves Tohru's birth...and the sad events that shortly followed. Is she ready to hear the truth about her mother and father? Meanwhile, Yuki announces that he's going to take responsibility for his own problems...instead of blaming everyone else. But how will Akito react to Yuki's declaration?

**Fruits Basket Volume 16**  
Available April 2007

# Fans Basket

We meet again, loyal *Furuba* readers. I think we have a particularly impressive Fans Basket section for Volume 15. I am continually impressed by the fan mail you all send. And it just breaks my heart that I won't be able to print it all. We just don't have enough pages left in the series! Lately, I've been getting a lot of jewelry for Takaya-san. This might shock some of you, but I've never even met Takaya-san. Rest assured, though, we've been sending some of your fan mail to Japan! I can't promise you'll get a response, though. But I do know this: Takaya-san is staggered by how many fans she has worldwide!

-Paul Morrissey, Editor

Margit Perala  
Age 19  
Finland

Whoa! Margit is from Finland!  
That's so cool. I wonder how  
many people read *Fruits Basket*  
in Finland. I really like your  
art style, Margit. It's very  
emo/indie rock.



**Tia Ramirez  
Tijeras, NM**

**Tohru's bedroom looks fantastically decorated, Tia! I absolutely love all the *Furuba* merchandise!**



**Riku**  
**Age 13**  
**Northridge, CA**

**How adorable does Tohru look in this sketch? Nice work, Riku!**

# Fruit Basket



Stephanie Thomas  
Age 12  
Columbia, MD

**Tobru should wear  
gingham more often! And  
take a close look at her  
over mitts—they totally  
match her outfit!**

Maggie McGratten  
Age 22  
Paris, Ontario  
- Canada

**Hey, Maggie. I haven't  
played *Star Ocean*.  
(I'm too busy reading  
fan mail to play  
videogames.) But it's a  
total blast seeing our  
*Fruits Basket* characters  
cosplaying in these  
awesome outfits.**





# Fruits Basket



Sheila Syroka

Age 18

Eric, PA

It's *Furuba* Babies!  
They all look so cuddly  
and adorable!

Chelsea Hensbergen  
Macomb, MI

More plush toys!  
Seriously, wouldn't  
you all buy *Furuba*  
plush toys if you  
could get your  
hands on them?

This sketch made me  
laugh, Chelsea. My  
favorite part: Ritsu  
freaking out in the  
corner!

